

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 26, 2014

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Pound-bound

Charlotte carriers it away for top design

See Page 2



Fight in store

Debenhams stays on right retail track

See Page 6



Ian's jack-pot

Opposition bowled over by top veteran

See Page 52



Scores of new trees targeted by vandals

THE vandalism of up to 100 newly-planted trees in Walsall over just six months, has sparked a fresh plea by council chiefs to catch the culprits.

Among the most recent targets was a tree planted in memory of nine-year-old Jamie Cartwright, which was ripped up and dozens of trees were snapped by yobs in Aldridge.

The spate of attacks have been condemned by Walsall Council bosses who say the 'minority have spoilt things' for the rest of the community. Council chiefs agreed to replace the tree in memory of Jamie, from Rushall, after it was targeted by yobs in Walsall Arboretum less than a month ago along with one to commemorate the start of the First World War.

The youngster died from an infection caused by dust of building work inside Birmingham Children's Hospital while receiving follow-up treatment after twice over-coming leukaemia.

Walsall leisure chief, councillor Anthony Harris, said: "We estimate that around 100 newly planted trees across the borough have been vandalised in the last six months or so. I would urge anyone with any information to pass this on to the police and help us stop the culprits."

Club looking for stewards

NEW stewards are being sought for Walsall FC matchdays at the Banks's Stadium.

Applicants must be 18 years and over and the role includes helping people at times of highly-charged incidents or being able to comfort anyone sick or injured.

Training will be given, leading to Level 2 NVQ in Crowd Safety.

Anyone that is interested should forward their CV to Scott Hamilton at Banks's Stadium or via email to safety@walsallfc.co.uk.

LEADER HITS OUT AT STRIKE PLANS

THE leader of Walsall Council has led a barrage of criticism over a planned strike which could see schools close and some council services grind to a halt in two weeks' time.

Thousands of council workers and school staff are due to walk out on July 10 after Unison voted in favour of the strike action in a row over pay.

The walkout will coincide with planned action by the National Union of Teachers.

But the move has already sparked criticism, with leader of Walsall Council Mike Bird saying those who do strike will have their pay docked.

"Should the strike take place then we will be explaining to our residents this was a decision taken by Unison and not by the council," he said.

"It seems while cuts are being made the unions are seeking a pay rise. Well if people do decide to walk out they will be docked pay and it will be a saving to the council."

Consequences

"At the end of the day it's members of the public who are being inconvenienced."

"We will be doing our utmost to ensure that residents will not be inconvenienced as little as possible and that any impact will be kept to a minimum."

Union leaders were urged to come back around the negotiating table by Midland MP Gavin Williamson.

He said: "It is always a tragedy when anyone has to go on strike and we do respect people's right to strike, however you do find that union leaders are quick to march out on strike and not think of the conse-

Report by Adam Thompson

quences that it has to their members. I would encourage them to get back around the negotiating table and think about the affect this is going to have on teachers, children and parents as well as residents across Staffordshire."

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said the authority was considering the implications of the Unison vote.

But Unison bosses insist the action is necessary following a proposed one per cent pay rise by the Government.

Tony Rabaiotti, Unison spokesman in the West Midlands, said: "We have a clear majority for strike action so a one-day strike will go ahead on July 10."

"Many of our members are low paid women earning barely above the minimum wage, who care for our children, our elderly and our vulnerable and they deserve better treatment than they have had at the hands of this Government."

Adrian Turner, representative for Unison in Wolverhampton, warned all public services would be affected apart from bin collections, and housing services. "We have not rushed into this. It is a last resort," he said..

Lee on the ropes to go up in the world



Lee Walters, aged 11, from Streetly, tries out the new climbing wall at Woodlands Adventure

A NEW £50,000 climbing wall has been unveiled at an adventure centre.

The wall at Woodlands Adventure in Aldridge was funded by the Saintbury Trust charity, which hands out grants to groups across the country. In recent years the site has undergone a series of revamps and organisers say it is 'unrecognisable' from when it was taken over in 1968. As well as scaling the wall, visitors will be able to abseil down it.

Centre manager Chris Williams said: "It will enable us to offer a much greater range of programmes to groups and in due course the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme (NICAS) levels one and two."

"We really are greatly indebted to the Saintbury Trust for providing this magnificent new activity and I'm sure that the 10,000 plus children that visit us each year will enjoy the climbing which has become a growth sport over the last 10 years or so."

Jonathan Cox, the Chairman of the Trustees of the Birmingham Boys' and Girls' Union which runs Woodlands Adventure, said "We have needed a new climbing wall for some time and this is certain to become a major attraction."

The charity was founded by Canon Carnegie of Birmingham Cathedral, 108 years ago and provides recreational facilities and outdoor education to children from Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Taxi firm tragedy man over the limit

A RADIO operator for a Walsall-based taxi firm was speeding and was more than twice the drink and drive limit when the private hire car left the road and struck a fence, an inquest into his death heard.

Banned driver Mohammed Imran Rashid died of head injuries in the crash which happened on a bridge, in Wednesbury Road, Pleck, in Walsall, on June 12 last year, the hearing was told.

The married father of three was at the wheel of a grey Toyota Avensis estate taken without permission from taxi firm 24/7 Cars, based in Watery Lane, when it struck the kerb, mounted the pavement hit a metal fence on the bend near the junction with Bescot Crescent shortly before 4.43am.

Forensic collision investigator Pc Paul Robbins told Monday's hearing at Smethwick Council House that Mr Rashid had not been wearing a seatbelt.

Mr Rashid, aged 37, of Arundel Street, Palfrey, had 186 milligrammes of alcohol in his system. The limit is 80. There was also evidence of take away food in the car.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said the cause of death was fatal a head injury, skull fracture due to a blunt impact to his head and recorded that death was due to a road traffic collision.

Tennis club taster offer

A TENNIS club in Walsall is serving up free taster sessions to coincide with the Great British Tennis Weekend. Walsall Tennis Club holds the sessions on June 28 from midday to 5pm.

Racquets will be provided and refreshments will be available. Club coach, Clayton Edge said: "Anyone attending, who returns to participate in club activities will receive a free group coaching session." Call 07774 777774 or visit www.walsalltennis.co.uk

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CHRONICLE

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Pals' fingers crossed for Margot



Sam Sarsfield and Emily Collins

HUNDREDS of well-wishers gathered at a charity event inspired by a brave little girl's battle against blood cancer.

Young Margot Martini, whose mother Vicki is originally from Essington, underwent a bone marrow transplant earlier this year after she was diagnosed with a rare form of leukaemia in October. Her plight captured the hearts of thousands and sparked a worldwide hunt to

find a perfect stem cell match. More than 50,000 signed up and Margot was treated for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) and acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) aged 14 months.

It was thought the operation had been a success but earlier this month she underwent a bone marrow aspirate test which revealed the presence of a low amount of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

Her family have said she is in the

early stages of relapse but they are doing all they can to stay positive.

The latest charity bash – Dance 4 Margot, in aid of Deleete Blood Cancer – was held at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton, just days after the news that the 18-month-old had suffered a setback. Organiser Emily Collins, aged 21, said: "Hearing that Margot was ill came as a massive shock. I'm just glad we can do our little bit to help."

Gym plan for hospital is given the go-ahead

A NEW gym will be built at Walsall Manor Hospital to help boost patients' recovery and fitness after latest expansion were given the go-ahead by the council.

The unit will be created on a grass bank at the end of the main ward block within the grounds of the hospital off Moat Road. It has been approved by Walsall Council officers under delegated powers.

Food firm honoured at awards

A WALSALL-based food distribution firm celebrated a triple success at an awards ceremony.

AF Blakemore & Son in Willenhall has been recognised with three big ticks as part of the Responsible Business Awards 2014, run by Business in the Community.

The wider AF Blakemore Group, Blakemore Fine Foods and Blakemore Logistics were recognised with big ticks in the education, enterprise growth and sustainable products and services categories respectively.

The big tick is the first level of accolade in the Responsible Business Awards, the UK's longest-running awards scheme recognising businesses that are making a positive difference to society and to the environment.

This year's regional Business in the Community gala dinner was held at Edgbaston Cricket Club. All three entries are also in the running to be named overall category winner at a Gala Dinner in London.

Head of corporate affairs, Paul Cowley said: "This is an unprecedented achievement. Achieving a Big Tick alone is something to be proud of but to be awarded three, is outstanding."

The move comes as the health trust is aiming to invest millions into improving facilities.

Colin Plant, divisional director, estates and facilities at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "The proposed gym for our stroke patients will be an excellent addition to our trust."

"It will mean that we can educate our patients and provide rehabilitation ensuring that they are prepared ready to return home after their stay. We hope that the gym will prove to be very beneficial to our patients. The new gym will cost circa £100,000 and is anticipated to start seeing patients in October."

The application to the council stated: "The gym is to provide necessary supervised exercise space for patients."

"The facility is currently lacking at the moment. The ground it will occupy is simply a grass bank so a new retaining wall and handrail will be required. The layout aids in offering therapy to patients who are in great need of supervised physical activity. With this in mind it will be equipped with exercise equipment."

"The scale of this single storey modular building fits easily into the main hospital plan, matching the existing adjacent modular building panels in finish and colour."

The trust is also planning to create two new medical wards, extend maternity services and also revamp the A&E and critical care units.

Charlotte's bags of design talent



Wolverhampton University student Charlotte Ellery with her winning carrier bags designs

A NEW re-usable carrier bag has been launched by a Black Country-based retailer after seeking the ideas of university students. Poundland, based in Willenhall, challenged 90 fashion design and graphic design students from the University of Wolverhampton to come up with suggestions.

They were asked to design a new re-usable bag as part of a wider campaign to reduce the use of every day single carrier bags. The winning design from Charlotte Ellery, aged 21 from Bristol, will be printed

on millions of bags and distributed across the retailer's 530 stores.

In 2013 Poundland introduced three new re-usable bags including a satchel, handbag and winter design.

This year the business decided to engage with their local community and challenge students to design something bright and colourful with a summer theme. The students had three weeks to submit their designs before the top 10, were judged by a panel at Poundland's head office.

Delivery boost for Asda may be passed

PLANS to create up to 25 jobs by launching a home shopping service at a super-market in Walsall look like they are finally to get the go-ahead.

Asda in Woodall Street, Bloxwich will expand under the proposals which go before planners today. A previous application was rejected last year, and council bosses put off making a decision on fresh plans last month amid concerns over vehicle access.

But now the plans have been recommended for approval. A petition with 26 signatures has been collected by people from flats in Woodall House amid fears of extra noise, parking problems and disturbance caused by deliveries.

And concerns have been raised that problems with delivery vehicles blocking surrounding roads will get worse. The superstore has put forward a scheme for refurbishment work to create a Home Shopping Pod, external freezer and erection of two canopies.

A previous application was rejected by the council after failing to show how there would be no detrimental impact on highway safety. But transportation officers say those issues have now been addressed. A representative from Asda is also expected to attend the planning meeting to answer questions.

£3,000 grant for dodgeball

A DODGEBALL club has been awarded a £3,752 grant to help promote the sport in the Black Country.

Walsall Warriors which was formed in 2012 has received the cash from Sport England. It was founded by Glyn Marston who said the aim was to help encourage other clubs in the area.

The club meets at Willenhall Chart Centre, Gomer Street. It is for adults on Mondays from 7.15-9.15pm and for juniors on Thursday from 6.30-8.30pm.

Busy summer

SIX weeks of activities are available for families at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre, starting from July 12 and aimed at five to 12-year-olds. The leisure centre is run by South Staffordshire District Council. For details visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/sussed

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£250,000 lottery prize still unclaimed

A £250,000 cash prize is sitting waiting in the Black Country after a EuroMillions winner has failed to collect the prize.

The oblivious winner bought the lottery ticket in Walsall for the May 30 draw and now National Lottery chiefs are searching for the lucky mystery ticket holder.

The winning EuroMillions numbers on that date were 5, 24, 27, 41, 45 and the Lucky Star numbers were 6 and 7. The holder has until November 26 to claim their prize.

The winner who bought it, in Walsall matched the five main numbers and one Lucky Star number.

If no-one comes forward before the prize claim deadline, then the money plus all the interest it has generated, will go to help National Lottery-funded projects across the UK.

In a bid to jog people's memories chiefs are even reminding people of events that took place on the same evening as the draw.

It was the day England played their final pre-World Cup home friendly against Peru.

Anyone who believes they have the winning ticket should call the National Lottery Line on 0845 910 0000.

Towel on hob sparked fire

A TOWEL left on a hot electric cooker hob caused a fire at a flat.

Neighbours called the fire brigade after a smoke alarm was triggered at the fourth floor flat, in High Street, Bloxwich, at about 4.30pm last Wednesday.

Watch Commander Richard Cooper said crews from the town arrived at the property opposite Bloxwich Leisure Centre to find the occupant was out. "The young mother had taken the children out to play. Thankfully the smoke alarm was working and alerted someone to the fire."

Country walk

THE Walsall group of the ramblers will be heading to Diddlebury and Corfton Bach for a 7.5 mile walk on Sunday. It will be a moderate walk from Wenlock Edge down to a Corvedale village. Non members are welcome and should contact the walk leader on 01922 692929.

Supersonic Bloodhound to visit college



The 135,000 horsepower Bloodhound SSC

THE world's fastest car The Bloodhound SSC is to visit the region as part of an event to recruit and inspire the next generation of engineers. The Bloodhound Project will be at Walsall College from June 30 to July 5 as part of a free event organised by the Black Country University Technical College.

It will offer local children aged 13 the opportunity to get up close to the full size 44ft long show car, learn more about how it works and experience its raw speed through a simulator. Staff from a number of local manufacturing and engineering firms from the region will be on hand to help at the

workshops which will also see students create and race their own model rocket cars.

Up to 120 students are set to attend each day from 16 schools in Walsall and the surrounding area. A family fun day, which is open to all without booking, will be held on July 5 from 10am to 2pm.

The Bloodhound SSC is a jet and rocket-powered supersonic car that is being built by British engineers to beat the 1,000mph world land speed record. The vehicle weighs over seven tons and its engines produce more than 135,000 horsepower, which is equal to the power of more than

180 Formula 1 cars. It has been in development since October 2008 and the project is being led by land speed record holders, Richard Noble and Andy Green.

David Atkinson, head of small and medium-sized manufacturing at Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, which is sponsoring the event said: "The West Midlands has a long and proud tradition of engineering excellence, but that heritage is at risk if we don't encourage the next generation."

Interested schools can call Rebecca Ward from Walsall College on 01922 688 879 or e-mail wardr@walsallcollege.ac.uk

140 more cinema seats are planned for complex

A MULTI-MILLION pound cinema development earmarked for Walsall town centre will be expanded to include more than 140 extra seats, under the latest plans.

Cordwell Property Group announced earlier this year that a deal had been struck to open the nine screen Vue cinema in Littleton Street, next to Tesco, helping to create more than 200 jobs.

But new proposals are going before planning chiefs today to increase the number of seats in the auditoriums by a total of 142, with the extra seating shared between the screens.

Seating would increase from 1,139 to 1,281, under the plans which would also increase the height of the cinema by about 4ft.

The proposals include a revised parking layout and replacing the planned ground floor box office with a large first floor box office and concessions area. The plans have been recommended for approval but council regeneration officers have objected as they are concerned about the appearance of the cinema.

Other concerns have been raised that the car park could be available to any visitor in town and that there would not be enough spaces for disabled people. A report to the planning committee

By Lisa O'Brien

states the potential for extra traffic had been considered.

Planning officers said that increasing the height of the development would be unlikely to have a detrimental impact.

The report said: "The Littleton Street frontage height, is considered to be positive, helping to provide enclosure to the street scene. The addendum to the transport statement concludes that as a result of the increased cinema auditorium seats, peak hours on the road network and for the nearby supermarket it is likely to generate 10 additional two way trips in the afternoon peak and 11 two way trips at the weekend.

"This is considered to be negligible and on balance would not impact on the free flow and safety of highway users or the provision of available car parking."

Britain in Bloom plea

VOLUNTEERS are being urged to help clean up Walsall for this year's Britain in Bloom. Residents, businesses and community organisations are being sought to step forward.

The council's district centre management team has issued a rallying call to volunteers to help with planting floral displays, litter-picking, fruit harvesting, site clearing, weeding and watering. Last year Aldridge and Bloxwich received a gold award, with Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall receiving silver in the urban community category. Volunteers can call Nikki Rolls on 01922 654324 and 07904 264920, or Diane Mansell on 01922 654326.

Pupils get into shipshape for day



All at sea, Glenthorne Primary youngsters enjoy their day, at the wheel is Megan Mason with teacher Phil Bailey

PUPILS at a Staffordshire school were all at sea as they dressed as sailors for the day. An enrichment day was held at Glenthorne Community Primary and the hall was decorated to look like a ship. The whole school in Cheslyn Hay marched and paraded around the playground.

When children entered the hall which had become 'HMS Glenthorne' each class had to do a team building

activity. Among the fun games and tasks were battleships, diary entries from a sailor's point of view, map work, plotting co-ordinates and Tug of War.

Each class had to do a team building activity and were split into two teams and had to use mats to prevent falling into what was labelled a river.

Younger children made boats out of lego and building bricks, junk model

boats which they had to race against each other. There were also games such as message in a bottle, floating and sinking games and then they had fish finger sandwiches for a snack.

Teaching assistant Jo Hughes said: "All the children had a lovely day and made flags to end the day on a lovely note by marching out of school at home time to meet their parents and carers."

NEWS in brief

Success adds up for student

A STUDENT has achieved a gold award in a national junior maths challenge.

Year eight student Shannan Percy, from Grace Academy Darlaston, picked up the accolade in the national Junior Maths Challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

It put her in the top seven per cent of those who took part from around the country. She said: "When I realised I got the gold I was really proud of myself because I didn't think I could achieve so high."

Jogging event leaders sought

JOGGERS are being urged to sign up as volunteer leaders. Jog Walsall wants to recruit more people to lead its sessions or set up a new one at a venue of their choice.

The next training session is on July 1 at Bloxwich Leisure Centre from 6-8.30pm. Run by Walsall Council's sport and leisure services team the jogs are designed to meet the needs of people that want to get back into exercise.

Call 01922 658080 for more information.

Transport show at arboretum

A classic car and transport show is taking place at Walsall Arboretum on July 27.

This event, in its 24th year, has more than 500 vehicles, auto jumble and trade stands. There will also be a children's funfair.

It takes place between 10.30am and 5pm. Tickets for adults are £4.50 and for children are £2.50. Free car parking is available. Call 01922 643385.

Church will hold summer fun day

A community fun day will be held in the grounds of a Brownhills church.

The event is at St James Church, Church Road, on July 12.

The parish includes sister congregation Holy Trinity, in Clayhanger.

Around 80 adults and 20 children attend four Sunday services across the two sites.

Forum on way

THE High Heath and Sheffield Forum will take place on Tuesday. It will be held at the Autumn Close Community Centre, starting at 7.30pm. Walsall Housing Group, ward councillors and police will be in attendance.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE watched the sun go down over Beer beach in Devon as we have done from time to time since 1972. Why do folk go back to the same familiar places, year after year? In one of her short stories Margaret Atwood says it is "to steady myself against the current of time that is flowing past and over me, faster and faster." Anyone over 50 knows exactly what she means.

YOU can't help noticing how many of the second-hand volumes in the Beer church book stall are do-it-yourself manuals. The connection, presumably, is that the name of Our Saviour is uttered more often in DIY than in just about any other human endeavour, and certainly with feeling. There is probably more religious language in 20 minutes of plumbing than in a whole Sunday in church.

IF you need proof that the Devonian lifestyle is good for you, look no further than the routine death announcements outside a local funeral director's. This week's dear departed were 93, 97 and 101.

HOW international politics works. Memorandum from the Grand Ayatollah to all citizens of Iran: With effect from 0900 on Monday the stinking, whore-bred spawn of the Great Satan will be known as "our dear friends the American people".

DEAR Tony, of course it's not your fault. There is no connection between your invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the chaos that has followed. Nor is there any connection between the UK debt crisis and all those billions of pounds you and Gordon borrowed. And there is definitely no connection between the rise of Ukip and your policy of open-door immigration. It's all just pure coincidence. Yours sincerely, Alastair Campbell.

THE public-health advice from the Food Standards Agency is not to wash chickens before you cook them. Damn right. They peak your soap to pieces and get feathers all over the shower.

IN HIS new book My Scotland, Our Britain, Gordon Brown declares his great pride in being MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, "to speak on behalf of the community that made me and raised me." So how many times have you spoken in Parliament since losing the 2010 General Election, Mr Brown? He may like to kid us he's Mr Proud but the former Labour leader and PM has been doing very good impressions of Mr Grumpy and Mr Silent.

GENERATION Right was the title of a Radio 4 programme looking at the alleged right-wing views of Britain's under-30s. One manifestation of this was young people objecting to NHS resources being spent on binge drinkers, chain smokers and grossly obese people who are perceived as being responsible for their conditions. What on earth is right-wing about wanting to use the NHS effectively? I bet the great Labour reformers who created the NHS 60-odd years ago would have had precisely the same views.

THE bank rate may be raised by October. About time, too. One rarely mentioned fact about Britain's financial crisis is that the black hole was plugged by taking billions of pounds from innocent old people. Pensioners who had been getting £5,000 a year on their investments were suddenly told that their income was being cut to £700. If any other section of the public had been treated like this, there would have been blood in the streets. Having robbed the old 'uns for the past seven years, the banks are preparing to give them a little bit more. Sweet.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bedsits planned for former JobCentre

A FORMER JobCentre in Darlaston is poised to be transformed into 15 bedsits, under new plans.

Proposals have been lodged with Walsall Council to convert the disused building in Pinfold Street, close to the junction with King Edward Street. But the move has sparked some concern over potential parking problems in the area.

A report submitted to planning

chiefs in Walsall says the proposal would 'bring a building back into use which has been disused for many years', which it claims would have a 'positive impact'.

Darlaston South Councillor Paul Bott said the plans could help provide accommodation for those suffering from the effects of bedroom tax but could also create issues with parking. He said: "This will help

people who are struggling because of the bedroom tax to downsize. It is also good because it will bring the building back into some use." The only problem is there will be a parking issue. It's on a main road which has double yellow lines on it."

The plans reveal there would be no parking provision but states that the site is located on a main bus route. The proposals also said that

there was no dedicated parking provision when the building was used as a JobCentre. Each of the bedsits would have living and bed space, en-suite facilities, a built-in wardrobe and small kitchenette area. A decision is due in the upcoming months. It comes as moves to build more than 60 homes and transform a former Walsall school site have received the final go-ahead.

Dial 999 to call Dan, firefighting special

by Craig Hughes

FROM being a bobby on the beat to fighting fires – it is all part of a standard week for 26-year-old Dan Perager.

He is a full-time firefighter in the Black Country but also spends hours a week volunteering with West Midlands Police as a special constable.

When he was a teenager Dan successfully applied to join both emergency services, although the childhood ambition of being a fireman won through.

However, he never lost his desire to be part of the police and has been a volunteer special on top of his day job for the last six years.

He dedicates up to 12 hours a week, which fits in between his firefighter role.

Dan said: "When I was 18 I applied for both the police and fire service and was lucky enough to be successful with both applications.

Balance

"It was a close call but as a child I'd always dreamed of being a fireman so chose that career route - but I was still interested in police work so was offered the chance to be a special constable and fit my tours of duty around my work schedule. It's a great balance for me.

"I have been a special constable for six years. I served at West Bromwich for my first year, two years at Wednesbury and a further three in Wolverhampton and now at Bilston."

Dan, from Walsall, has been on jobs as a special and bumped into fire colleagues who are unaware of his extra role.

"I've attended several fires where police assistance was needed to set up cordons and some road traffic collisions where I've helped manage traffic flow whilst fire crews free victims and recover vehicles," he said.

"I've surprised and confused a few fire colleagues – ones who didn't know about my police volunteering - when I've turned up at scenes in



Dan Perager ready for action as a firefighter



Dan Perager in the role as a special constable

my police uniform." As if a combined emergency service role is not enough he also does charity work and is an ambassador for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Dan has also signed up to do TV acting.

"Our fire service shift pattern is four on four off, so my rest days are ample time to fit in police volunteering, charity work and a bit of support acting," he said.

"I'm signed up with an agency that supplies the BBC so if you see someone who looks like me on Doctors every now and again, then yes, that is me."

He insisted he enjoys the dual positions. "I can't think of anything I dislike about both jobs, except maybe having to shave every day I'm on duty as a fire officer, but it's safety critical."

He is based at Walsall fire station but has been at Wednesbury and

Cradley Heath during his seven years with the service. With the police he is part of the community action priority team at Bilston, which involves tackling emerging issues and assisting operations.

He has been involved in drug raids, search warrants and shifts with emergency response crews. He worked during the Olympics and was on duty during the 2011 riots.

Crucial

"I've attended countless road traffic collisions as a firefighter so my knowledge of crash scenes and consideration of the hazards come to the fore when deployed at such incidents as a special," he said.

"On the flip side, when attending fires we believe are suspicious having knowledge of scene preservation gained through the police comes in

handy so potentially crucial evidence isn't lost or contaminated.

"Both services react with utmost urgency with the sole aim of helping people in need, whether that's rescuing someone from a burning building or taking a dangerous criminal off the street."

Dan said both play an important role in keeping the community safe. "I hear moans and groans about the emergency services – but from my experience of both they are made up of predominantly dedicated, professional people who are passionate about the role."

"Police cuts means resources are more stretched than perhaps they were but officers I know never stop and it's job after job after job."

"But not just that, the incidents they attend, without a second's thought is bravery at its highest order."

Cleaner in cheques swindle avoids jail

A CLEANER who swindled her employer out of thousands of pounds has avoided a prison sentence.

Mica Barton pleaded guilty to 10 charges of fraud by false representation and one charge of theft at Walsall Magistrates Court. The 21-year-old of Burgh Way in Walsall, stole and cashed cheques from Philip Buckley totalling more than £2,000 between August 7 and October 20 last year.

She also stole a bank card belonging to her friend, Lisa Garratt, between January 21 and 23 and took £500 from her account. Miss Karen Cockitt, prosecuting, said: "Mr Buckley offered her employment as a cleaner for £8 an hour between March and April last year."

The court heard Mr Buckley kept his cheque book in his office which Barton was not authorised to clean. Over the course of two months she cashed 10 cheques totalling £2,480.

Mr Mahmood Hussain, defending, said Barton was in debts of more than £5,000 which motivated her to commit the crimes. Barton was handed a 12-month community order and told to carry out 200 hours unpaid work. She was also ordered to pay £290 compensation to Miss Garratt and costs of £410.

Concerts at town church

MUSIC will fill the pews of a church that is hosting two summer concerts.

Phoenix Brass Band will perform at All Saints', in Walsall Road, Darlaston, on July 12, with tickets costing £10.

This will be followed by a visit by Warley Male Voice Choir on July 19.

Guest soloist will be Ralph Meanyley. Tickets cost 7.50.

A combined ticket for both events is available for £15.

Both concerts will start at 7pm and refreshments will be served.

Leather crafts

A LEATHER bag-making workshop for adults takes place on July 12, led by Sarah Benson at Walsall Leather Museum. People will learn all sorts of techniques and tickets are £55, including materials. Call 01922 652288 or email leathermuseum@walsall.gov.uk

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NEWS in brief

Blooming call for late entries

RESIDENTS have until tomorrow, Friday, at 5pm, to enter a Walsall town's In Bloom contest.

Bloxwich in Bloom gives residents the chance to show their skills, with the winner receiving £50 in garden vouchers.

People can take a picture of their garden and send it to Nikki Rolls, Bloxwich In Bloom Garden Competition, District Centre Management, Floor 2, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, WS1 1TP, or email to RollsN@walsall.gov.uk

Event for girls on engineering

A WORKSHOP which aims to inspire young women to consider a career in engineering is taking place next week.

The Create Your Future event takes place at Walsall College on June 28 from 10.30am to 1pm.

It has been arranged by WISE which promotes female talent in science, engineering and technology and works with training providers and businesses in the borough. Email p.patel@wisecampaign.org.uk to book a place.

Film-makers at pub film event

TWO film-makers can be quizzed at an event in Walsall on Saturday, as part of Walsall Arts Fest.

Deborah Haywood and Mark O'Halloran will be at the Wheatsheaf pub, in Birmingham Road, on June 28.

Ms Haywood directed Twinkle Twinkle, which will be shown from 3pm, with a Q&A session taking place afterwards.

Moth trapping at nature reserve

A moth trapping event will be held at a nature reserve in Willenhall on July 4.

National Moth Night is focusing on woodland moths this year and Walsall Countryside Services is holding the session at Rough Wood local nature reserve from 9pm to midnight. Places are free and must be booked. Call 01922 650000

Church fair due

ORGANISERS are gearing up for an annual summer fair to be held at All Saints' church in Walsall Road, Darlaston on Saturday. There will be gift and bottle stalls, food, and a tombola.

Hunt to find Jake's hit-and-run driver



Jake Hancox, 13, with mom Steph Hancox

A schoolboy has had to undergo two operations and a skin graft after being knocked down in a hit-and-run as he walked home from playing football.

Jake Hancox, aged 13, was on a pedestrian crossing in New invention, Willenhall, when the driver of a Ford Focus ignored a red light knocking him down on May 2.

His left foot was broken and he has undergone two operations including a skin graft as a result.

The accident happened as he waited with friends at the crossing on Lichfield Road, after a game of football on land be-

hind The Square. "I stepped out when the light changed to red and the car just came straight at me. I was quite upset. I was knocked on to the ground by the impact. My shoe came flying off and I was bleeding. I knew my leg was broken."

"Lots of people were crowding round to see if I was alright. Then somebody phoned the ambulance," said Jake who is a pupil at Coppice Farm Performing Arts School.

Just 15 minutes earlier he and brother Harry, aged 10, had been dropped off by their mother Stephanie to play out with a group of friends. They were on their way

home to Sandwell Place when Jake was struck by the dark coloured car at 7.20pm.

"He's in a lot of pain because it was a very bad injury. He's on crutches and still has the wires in his foot to help it to set. The foot is swollen and he can't go to school at the moment. It's really affected his education and he misses the social side of things. He did return to school for a short time, but due to the seriousness of the injury he has to stay at home," said Mrs Hancox.

Officers have launched an appeal for help from the public to trace the driver. Anyone with information can call 101.

£6.6m windfall to help ease 'pain of potholes'

UP to 123,000 potholes across the Black Country and Staffordshire will be fixed in after councils landed a £6.6 million windfall.

Around 8,000 potholes will be fixed in Walsall after the borough was given almost half a million pounds. The Prime Minister has said that he wants to rid towns and cities of the 'pain of potholes', pledging funding for authorities that have shown a commitment to filling them in.

Teams are sought for tournament

TEAMS are being invited to sign up for a fundraising football tournament which will be held at a park next month to help raise awareness of the plight of street children around the world.

Youngsters can compete in the tournament at Holland Park in Brownhills on July 6 to support Street Child World Cup.

The Brownhills and Willenhall Methodist Circuit has organised the event and aims to raise £30,000 by taking part in sponsorship events over the summer.

Teams from local Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association and youth groups will compete.

There will be five-a-side football tournaments for youngsters aged 10 to 13 and 14 to 17, for both boys and girls. There will also be a sponsored pentathlon aimed at younger children.

It costs £5 to enter a team of five into the tournament, which will take place from 2-5pm.

Anyone interested can Call 01543 372151 for details.

Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley also each get around half a million pounds to fix between 8,000 and 10,000 potholes in their area, while Staffordshire gets more than £4.5m for 86,000 potholes in the county.

David Cameron said: "Helping fill in potholes is helping hard-working families. That is why we are giving this extra money, which could help fix around 9,000 potholes in the area - making a real difference to journeys for businesses, commuters and families."

Councils across England are to share £168m to fill in more than three million potholes. As a condition of receiving the money local authorities are required to publish monthly progress updates on how many have been repaired.

Walsall's transport chief Councillor Adrian Andrew welcomed the investment in the town. He said: "It is good news. It seems in some respects the rain has been worse than the cold and snow in previous winters. We will get the ball rolling today in terms of what we are doing with the money."

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin, a former Cannock councillor, said: "Potholes are the bane of all our lives and the funding is an important step in ridding our roads of this menace."

Les Mis students to take to the stage



Georgia Burgess, Amy Jevons, Finn Cargill, Luke Wilson, Harry Gregory, George Caulton. Front, Charlotte Jackson, Jon Flood

A CAST of more than 30 students at a school are gearing up to stage the Boubli and Schönberg classic Les Misérables.

The musical based on the French historical novel by Victor Hugo, which recently hit the big screen starring Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe, will be staged at Aldridge School from July 1 to 5 with each performance starting at 7.30pm.

Every year the school puts on a end-of-term production showcasing students' musical and performing arts talents.

Teacher Mrs Libby Marciano, who is directing the show, said: "The cast has students from year seven through to our year 13s for whom this will be their final performance as Aldridge School students."

"This is the second time in three

years we have performed Les Misérables."

She went on to say: "Usually we put on a different production but the students requested we perform this again because they enjoyed it so much a few years ago." Tickets cost £9 and £8 for concessions and are available from the school by calling 01922 743988. There are tickets at £5 for the preview show on July 1.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

WHILE sitting in a park recently, I was informed that according to an old wives' tale it is good luck if a pigeon makes a mess on your shoe. Having had a couple of weeks to reflect on this, I have come to the conclusion that this is a myth.

It is bad luck if a pigeon messes on your shoe. But good luck indeed if said pigeon misses and lays a bit fat splat on the traffic warden standing next to you.

□□□□□

OBSERVING that Wayne Rooney's wife was pictured at the airport in Brazil with no fewer than 15 suitcases, somebody remarked on Facebook that 'Coleen Rooney's luggage sums up all that is wrong with English soccer!' On balance, I feel inclined to agree. Except that it wasn't her spare clothes I had in mind.

□□□□□

AND why does every football match now have to be preceded by half an hour's worth of sentimental gush about the players' personal lives?

Gushing tales about how 'grandad was always therefore them' and tearful tales about how they want their children to be proud of them. Could you have imagined Nobby Stiles or Geoff Hurst turning blathering on like that before a must-win game? Of course not. It's supposed to be a sport, not the Oprah Winfrey show.

□□□□□

INTERESTING to see that the British and US governments appear to be adopting a policy of 'whoever is my enemy's enemy is my friend' by joining forces with Iran in the fight against the Isis militias in Iraq.

It is of course a policy which has been tried before. Not so long ago, it was Iran's fundamentalist leader Ruhollah Khomeini who was public enemy number one, agitating trouble wherever he went, taking his country back to the Middle Ages, calling us 'Little Satan' and ordering his followers to murder a British author, nice friendly stuff like that.

To counter the growing menace that Khomeini was presenting to world peace, the West decided to support his biggest enemy, and provided him with weapons to attack Iran. There were concerns that this man too might have one or two murderous habits, but he seemed a bit more civilised, and he always dressed nicely, whereas Khomeini dressed up like a villain out of one of the Harry Potter films.

His name, of course was Saddam Hussein. And when Khomeini died in 1990, he was no longer our friend.

Maybe it's just down to being a simple 'mon' from the Black Country. But British foreign policy seems a confusing business sometimes.



Debenhams' stylish designs are Ascot favourites



The classic sitcom, Are You Being Served?



Looking forward, Debenhams boss Michael Sharp

Store making sure we're being served

Debenhams is still a retail force to be reckoned with, despite recent setbacks. **SIMON PENFOLD** reports

THEY were once a fixture on every high street. Anything and everything you could think of would be sold at your local department store.

Known for offering the personal touch they eventually helped launch the now traditional Christmas grotto.

Employing thousands across the country they became such a part of life that one of the nation's favourite sitcoms in the 1970s was even set inside a fictional shop.

But the advent of online retail and changing shopping habits over the years means those once-beloved emporiums which first sprung up back in the 19th century are becoming a thing of the past.

One historic firm is fighting back though. Debenhams has certainly faced some 'challenging' trading conditions over recent months but last week released a trading update that showed sales improving as it shakes up its operations, squeezing more profit out of online sales and getting the best out of its stores.

To that end it confirmed it is to run trial concessions with Sports Direct and cafe chain Costa.

But that hasn't stopped the 200-year-old department store chain ploughing forward with ambitious plans which will see it transform the retail map of the Midlands.

Most recently it revealed that its new three-storey store in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre will create more than 120 jobs when it opens in 2017.

It will be the keystone in a major £30 million redevelopment of the shopping centre including the demolition of the former TJ Hughes store to make way for



Showing the planned redevelopment plan for the Mander Centre

the new Debenhams branch. The city has been hoping to attract the chain for years and had been lined up as the flagship store for the £300 million Summer Row shopping centre, but that came to nothing when the scheme collapsed in 2011 in the wake of the property market crunch.

The chain already has stores at Merry Hill and Walsall, as well as in Telford and Birmingham's Bullring, but clearly feels expansion into Wolverhampton makes business sense.

It had also planned to be part of Staf-

ford's £70 million Riverside complex but, as it was revealed last week, it has had to pull out because of timeframe issues.

But a company spokesman stressed: "We are still committed to gaining representation in Stafford when the right opportunity arises."

It is all part of a growth plan that is seeing Debenhams invest in both stores and in online and mobile phone shopping in the UK.

It's most recent store in the region, at Lichfield, has also been a big success.

Opened a year ago, it was extended to include a third floor, cafe and homeware department before it was completed.

And more money is due to be pumped into the Walsall store, with a major refurbishment planned for this year including a new health and beauty hall and a revamped restaurant.

In a bid to boost its fortunes the company is hoping to flag up its fashion credentials.

Store bosses have signed up a range of big name designers such as Todd Lynn, who has dressed music legends including Mick Jagger, Beyoncé, and The Klaxons in his signature androgynous style. He will be launching an exclusive range of handbags for Edition at Debenhams for the Autumn/Winter season.

At the same time the store chain's glamorous fashions have been much in demand at top-drawer events such as Royal Ascot.

It has even been creating its own mini-paddock so race-goers can see how different styles of heel cope on real grass.

On the menswear front the department store says sales of three piece suits have overtaken the two-piece option for the first time in decades.

The trend for tailored three piece suits and smart dressing has shown a marked increase in recent weeks with sales soaring by 44 per cent.

Debenham's Lizzie Singleton said: "Guys are smartening up their act. Gone are the days of casual summer dressing – men are keeping up appearances in smart tailoring but opting for lighter options such as linen."

Keeping on-trend with the latest shifts in fashion is key if the business is going to put a nightmare Christmas behind it.

In April Debenhams revealed a 25 per cent slump in half year profits after a 'challenging' start to the year followed poor sales over the festive season.

It blamed lower-than-expected clothing sales and online competition for the decline.

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT



REDUCED to little more than a third of the membership of Walsall Council, one might very well question the audacity of Tory leader Mike Bird in bidding to retain control.

All the numbers were against him. Labour had won a couple more seats in last month's local elections and now held half.

The death of opposition leader Tim Oliver left Labour one more down. But in order for Labour to be defeated it would require every other party and the independents to team up against it.

Somehow that is exactly what happened.

Mike Bird managed something that many Tories can only dream of, he got UKIP to support him staying in control.

He is adamant that nothing was offered and that no deals were done, which raises a problem for Nigel Farage's Eurosceptics. Can they really claim to be as anti the Tories as they are Labour?

The Lib Dems, of course, have made their bed with the Tories over the past two years and must now lie in it for better or worse.

But Walsall's blue-gold-purple alliance is not in a stable position politically.

There will be a by-election in Birchills Leamore to find a successor for Tim Oliver and I wouldn't bet against Labour keeping the seat.

Somehow, Councillor Bird is going to have to come up with a year of political miracles.

Firstly, he has to keep not only his own party on side but the Lib Dems, UKIP and two independents as well as try to win over the mayor, Democratic Labour's Pete Smith (not to be confused with Labour Classic, New or One Nation).

Some councillors elected are new and untested. They all have to be there for every single vote to avoid defeat. And Councillor Bird has no authority over the ones who are not in his party.

Secondly, he has to get a budget passed. But then Labour has form for sitting on its hands in Walsall, despite first protesting and posing for pictures with campaigners, amid concerns that had they voted the budget down they would have paralysed the council. Thirdly, he has to keep a constant watch for a motion of no confidence.

□□□□□

WEST Bromwich MP Tom Watson has put Mr Miliband's spin doctors on warning that they need to cut out the schoolboy errors.

These included the decision to pose with a promotional copy of The Sun and the now infamous pictures of Mr Miliband struggling with a bacon sandwich.

I'd add to that the decision to bring the leader to Walsall three days before polling day and invite party supporters to a speech they would already completely agree with.

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Rainforest loggers are the victims

JUST like A Parker, I too watched Charlie Hamilton James' programme relative to his rainforest purchase.

However, unlike A Parker, I took the opposite view and saw it from the Peruvian man's side. Towards the end of the programme Charlie began to realise the predicament of the poor family if he took away their livelihood on the land he wanted to protect, as there is no welfare state in Peru.

A Parker refers to the air pollution being created by air travel, etc. yet he (she) seems to ignore the fact that Charlie Hamilton

James uses this form of transport to get to his Peruvian rainforest land along with his entourage of cameramen and recordists, also all the other places he visits with his mega cameras in his job as wildlife photographer for expensive magazines.

So many eco warriors miss the fact that these Peruvian wood loggers have no other way of feeding their families.

These poor people will never earn enough to buy the sort of furniture the rain forest wood is turned into.

E SHAW, Darlaston

Billions are hidden away

THE Treasury is losing £40 Billion a year to VAT, income tax, National Insurance and corporation tax due to a shadow economy where firms and individuals hide information from the Taxman.

HMRC is not trying to collect the tax that is due in the UK. Rather than tackle fraudsters who undermine all honest small business in the country our tax authorities would choose to impose cuts and sack it's staff.

Collecting even a fraction of this huge tax would change the debate about public spending overnight. It is central to all the other public services that we all rely on.

Tax evasion or avoidance is the new 'Kerching' for the shady few, at the expense of the many. Little wonder the public services are at huge risk and undervalued.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Horton Street, Walsall

Past trails which led to trouble

I LIKE it, I like it. Your correspondent A V Harrison's letter on residual snail's trails and politicians.

It brought to mind the egotistical lady politician who shut down Britain's major industries of coal mining, steelmaking, ship building and the railways, together with all of the supplying service companies, putting tens of thousands out of work.

This is after having sold them their own homes, leaving most of them with huge debts. Then to cap it all, going along with a Mr Reagan to deregulate the banks, with such catastrophic effects. The worst effects came years later, after her own party had decided that enough was enough.

The bubble finally burst in 2008, when incomes could not keep up with the rising prices of properties.

Locally, these trails manifest themselves in our poor-performing schools, problems in social services and the continuing state of the roads.

RAY HAMMOND
Aldridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Walsall.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Parents must look at their children's diet

EVERYONE complains when their children do not receive the schooling they should get, but parents do not give a jot about what they feed them, leading to bad eating habits and obesity.

When we were young we had to eat plain nutritional food; we were fit and healthy. Nowadays food is made to taste so that we want more of it, by adding sugar and other ingredients to increase sales.

With the advent of TV came the first couch slouchers then fast food, now iPads, computers and smart phones, sitting for hours on end looking at screens, playing games (but not physically) whilst munching on packet after packet of snacks and sugary drinks.

Just walk down any high street, young ladies in particular, in their early 20s grossly overweight, mainly like their parents, some of whom are too large to walk and use electric scooters, they are everywhere.

Unless these obese people (except those with medical conditions) do something to change their lifestyles, they will not outlive their parents. It is a catch 22 situation, the Government will not pass laws to regulate what goes into our food, because if sales fell, so would corporation tax.

Meanwhile our younger generation are becoming more overweight and putting pressure on the NHS. Children can only eat what their parents feed them.

Taxing truth for liability

I READ with interest the letter from A Parker in your edition dated June 12 about chancel repair liability.

Yes, this ancient law does still exist. The validity of the law has been challenged in the courts and in 2003 the House of Lords confirmed that it does still exist.

It does, however, arise in only a small percentage of cases. Solicitors would be negligent if they did not undertake the necessary enquiries. In appropriate cases they must advise their clients to take out some form of insurance cover.

ROGER CORBETT
Walsall Wood








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Fraudster conned his employer on copper

A CONMAN defrauded the company he worked for and one of its suppliers out of thousands of pounds by ordering copper piping and selling it on to scrap dealers.

Carl Startup, of Essington, bought copper piping from Grahams Builders Merchants and had it sent to Choice Heating and Plumbing (CHP), where he worked as a carpenter.

He used false order numbers to make the purchases and sold the piping to scrap metal dealers, pocketing the money for himself.

CHP, which is in Lichfield Road, Wolverhampton, lost out on £3,042 because of the fraud, while the supplier company was fiddled out of £1,776. Mr Kaulbir Paul, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, said: "He had said he had debts to service, a young family with Christmas fast approaching."

Father-of-three Startup, aged 31, of Parks Crescent, told the court he was "ashamed" of his actions.

He previously pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud by false representation, all carried out between October 3 and November 12 last year. He was given a

by Will Ackermann

six-week community order yesterday with a curfew requirement.

Startup, who the court heard now works in London, was also ordered to pay £2,750 in compensation and a £60 surcharge.

Sentencing him, district judge Graham Wilkinson said the compensation figures were lower than the amount he stole because the suppliers would have been able to buy goods for less than it sold them for.

New base boost for jobs agency



Outside their new Walsall recruitment business Vebro directors Darren Browne, and Andy Weaver, both of Cannock

A RECRUITMENT agency has expanded by opening a new base in Walsall, creating new jobs.

Vebro has invested up to £8,000 in refurbishing the premises in Lichfield Street, which launched this month. The recruitment agency was initially launched in Mill Street, Cannock, in 2012 and has been looking to expand elsewhere in the region.

Four people have been taken on by directors Andrew Weaver and Darren Browne for the Walsall base. They have more than 30 years' experience in the recruitment industry. Mr Weaver said they currently work with the likes of European Metal Recycling in Oldbury, Bloor Homes and Taylor Wimpey. "This is the first time in Walsall, we have an office in Cannock. The last three to four months we have been looking at different premises," he said.

"The feedback has been really, really positive. We want to help people get back to work to get the best jobs." For further information visit the www.vebro.co.uk website.



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Market boss ran up £15k in false benefit claims

Clean sweep for canal day



The refurbished footbridge, with left, Brian Stringer, Barrie Poxon, Gerald Pickley, Douglas Birch MBE and Councillor Barbara Cassidy

WORK to tidy up a waterfront is under way in preparation for a town's canal festival. Organisers of Brownhills Canal Festival say they are praying this year's event on June 29 will be blessed with sunny weather – as well as a big crowd.

Volunteers from Brownhills Local Committee, staff from the Canal and River Trust and Walsall Council joined forces to organise a clean-up operation of the foot bridge over the Wyrley and Essington Canal and the towpaths.

The show, which attracts 2,000 revellers, will be officially opened by Aldridge-Brownhills MP Sir Richard Shepherd. Other special guests will include the new Mayor of Walsall councillor Pete Smith.

Attractions include music, clown act Mad Dom, Spotlight Theatre, the Ikon Gallery's Slow Boat art project, Bob Park's birds of prey display, food, and a jazz club and Pelsall Ladies Choir. There will be wool spinning and wood turning demonstrations and stalls.

A CROOKED market trader claimed more than £15,000 in benefits while he was running three stalls in the Black Country and Staffordshire, a court heard.

Fraudster Mohammed Farooq Anjum had told authorities he was out of work, penniless and struggling to provide for his family.

But Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard the 55-year-old was boss for an operation selling underpants and socks at markets in Walsall, Willenhall and Stoke-on-Trent. Anjum's 20-month run of swindling the taxpayer finally came to an end when he was arrested in December 2012 following a lengthy investigation.

Prosecuting on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council, Ms Jacky Bramley told the court Anjum first started claiming unemployment benefit in April 2010.

"On his application he stated he was not working and had no other income," she said. "This was a lie, as evidence later emerged he was working six days a week on as a market trader."

The court heard Anjum made a further four fraudulent claims between December 2011 and January 2012.

Ms Bramley added: "Shortly after he spoke to police Anjum cancelled his benefits claim, stating he had started working 40 hours per week as a market trader."

Anjum's fraudulent claims amounted to £15,021 in Housing Benefit, Job Seekers Allowance and Council Tax Benefit.

Mr Harbinder Gahir, defending, said his client had resorted to the fraudulent behaviour after falling into financial difficulties. He said: "He has two sons to support."

Anjum, of Bamford Road, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty to eight counts of dishonestly making a false statement to obtain benefits. He was sentenced to 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay £600 costs. It was heard that Wolverhampton City Council had prepared civil proceedings to recover the full amount of Anjum's fraud.



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Billboard hits fast lane to techno trouble

Traffic on the M6 passes the huge digital advertising billboard as it displays an antivirus program window

IT has become a well known fixture on the landscape of thousands of drivers' journeys to work each day. But technical gremlins got the better of one of the biggest advertising hoardings in Europe when an antivirus computer program message appeared. It blocked off part of an advert for a jewellery firm during the morning rush hour. The billboard, near Junction 9 of the M6 for Wednesday, has attracted controversy amid claims it could cause accidents.

The message, which was asking for confirmation of an update being installed on an antivirus program, was removed later in the morning.

The huge sign, which is as long as a jumbo jet, was switched on a year ago, and residents say they were not consulted about the changes, while some claimed bright lights from the sign shone into their homes.

The structure, near Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium, was erected three years ago. Birmingham-based technology company Elonex, which controls the billboard, could not be contacted.

Care home plans at pub

A FORMER Walsall town centre pub with a troubled past may become a care home, under plans poised to create dozens of jobs.

The Market Tavern, which was used as a nightclub, was turned into a retreat care home for people with learning disabilities, mental health and physical disabilities, under latest plans.

According to the plans lodged with Walsall Council, it would add 'vitality' to the town centre and create more than 35 jobs. The former pub, in High Street, would be converted into a 10 bedroom independent care home and would provide accommodation to people who can no longer live in their own home or require a period of respite.

It would specialise in the short and longer term rehabilitation of people aged between 18 and 65 with learning disabilities, varying degrees of mental health disorders and physical disabilities. According to the plans, during its time as a pub the property was plagued with problems of crime and disruptive behaviour, including violence and vandalism.

The basement of the building, which was used as a nightclub, would be used as a multi-sensory stimulation area by people with mental disabilities. The ground floor, which was formerly used as a bar, would be converted into a reception and office area with a waiting room, coffee area and drop-in centre.

Health professionals and local police support groups will also be able to offer support to people in the care home. The first and second floors would be adapted to accommodate bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms.

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Carnival success after thousands visit park



Esme Warren from the Classic Academy of Dance in Willenhall is lifted high

ORGANISERS of the Willenhall Memorial Park have hailed the event a great success after thousands turned out to the annual event.

Families flocked to the Willenhall Memorial Park and organiser Sharon Green said: "The weather was brilliant."

"We were in need of good weather after the last few years. We had a bigger turn out compared to last year. We had about 2,500 people through the gates - up 800 or so on last year."

"Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. The park was full all day."

Attractions on the day included live music, a dog show and children's fairground rides. A spokesman for willenhallaywe.co.uk, the town's dedicated website that launched the town's new flag at the show, said: "Many thanks to all the local businesses who helped us raise £80 towards our chosen charity Cancer Research with our charity raffle."



Cycle stunt artist, Aaron Stannage



Sarah Henderson and Karina Richards



Stilt walker Joanna Leek and Kalie Plant

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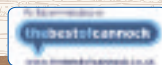
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Fundraising walk to help Amber



Marie Tisdale, Clare Pickman and Jen Farley prepare to take part in sponsored walk to raise money for Amber Porterfield

A SCHOOLGIRL who dreams of being able to walk has been accepted for a life-changing operation at a hospital abroad. Five-year old Amber Porterfield has the condition spastic diplegic cerebral palsy and uses a walking frame and a wheelchair to get about.

Her family have so far raised £20,000 in just 15 weeks towards the appeal target of £60,000 to cover the costs of her undergoing surgery at a specialist centre in the United States, with the help of the school, friends,

family and wellwishers. The Pelsall Village School pupil and her family will travel to the Cerebral Palsy Centre at the St Louis Children's Hospital, in Missouri, in July next year.

Amber's mother Susannah, aged 33, says: "The appeal is going really well. It's been absolutely fantastic. Saying 'thank you' to all the people who have helped so far doesn't seem enough. So many people who we don't know have told us they heard about the appeal, have organised their own events and

then handed us the money. Now a Staffordshire law firm is urging supporters to sign up for a sponsored walk to help raise the total.

Ansons Solicitors, where her aunt Jen Farley works, has organised the 12-mile sponsored walk on July 4 from its office in Cannock to its Lichfield office. For a sponsorship form email jfarley@ansonsllp.com or Clare Pickman at cpickman@ansonsllp.com for a sponsorship form. Or visit www.justgiving.com/clare-pickman

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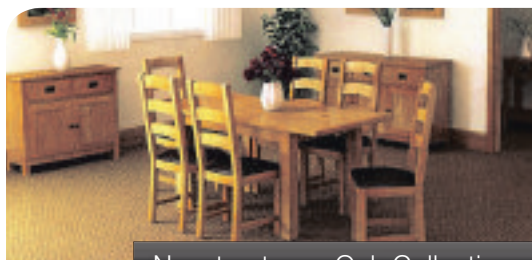
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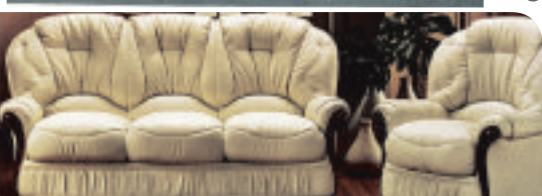
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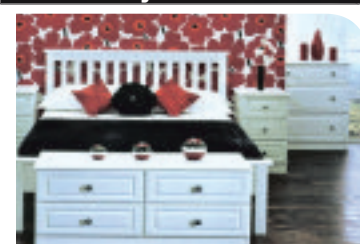
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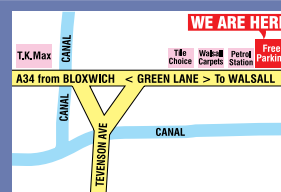
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Dancer Rachael lifts lid on her BGT experience

A DANCER from Walsall who made it all the way to the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent has lifted the lid on her time on the popular show.

Teenager Rachael Allman entertained millions of TV viewers as part of the line dancing troupe CountryVive.

The 18-year-old from Leamore said being on the programme was 'surreal'. The Walsall College student said: "We were just so happy to be there and all the other acts and judges were so friendly, although we never met Simon because he had his own staircase and dressing room. We got to the point where we almost became desensitised to the whole experience and having conversations with Ant and Dec just became normal which shows you how totally surreal the whole thing was."

"All I remember is how close the judges were to you - they were literally feet away and a lot closer than it actually looks on television."

Despite winning high praise from judges Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden, Rachael and CountryVive were beaten in the public vote by magician Darcy Oake and eventual winners Collabro and did not make it through to the live final.

Rachael, who is studying level three dance, revealed her dance troupe did not even have to qualify to get onto the show. They were head-hunted by show researchers at the World Dance Masters Championships in Blackpool last August.

She added: "We were actually competing at the world championships when one of their researchers approached us and asked us whether we would consider auditioning. We knew they were coming and I think they had seen one of our videos on YouTube



Rachael (fifth from left) and the troupe



Rachael with David Walliams



Rachael (fourth from right) with the rest of her group backstage at the ITV studios

and really liked what they saw." The former Frank F Harrison Community School pupil, who lives with her family in Cope Street, said once CountryVive had reached the live semi-finals, it became a whirlwind adventure.

"We were a bit gutted to be the first act to perform on the live show purely because we knew that acts have a better chance the closer towards the end

you appear," she continued. "But we were told afterwards that we had actually finished fourth in the public vote which is a great achievement. "When we performed I just completely tried to block out the nerves and I definitely didn't make eye contact with the judges. "It was great to represent the college and Black Country region."

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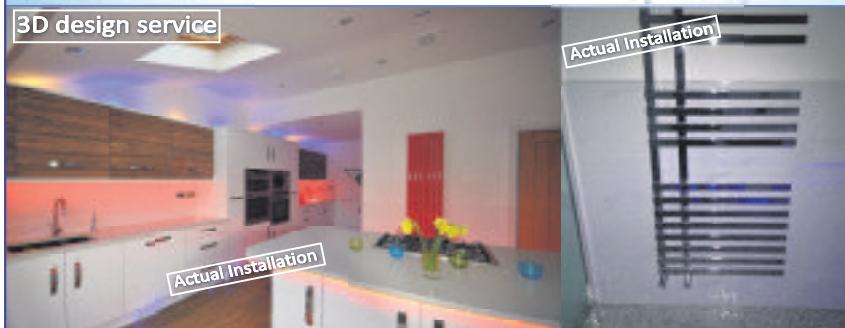
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Appeal to help dog care charity after cash stolen

Focus on Willenhall

ORGANISERS of a dog show and display team have launched an appeal after thieves snatched the takings from their stall at Willenhall Carnival.

Volunteers for Manic Mutts Animal Rescue ran a car boot stall at the event and raised about £100 from selling bric-a-brac and goods for pets.

But their delight turned to anger after three youths stole the cash box containing the money as the team were packing up at about 5pm Saturday after the show in Willenhall Memorial Park in Pinson Road. The proceeds from the stall was due to be donated to the Animal Samaritans charity towards the cost of new heaters to keep its puppies warm in winter.

Manic Mutts' group secretary Barbara Lewthwaite said: "As we were loading the cars we saw these three lads hovering nearby. They kept looking in our direction and we were keeping an eye on them, but we didn't think they would go for the cash."

"Then one of them reached into one of the cars trying to grab one of our handbags and a second lad was at the door on the other side and he grabbed the cash box off the seat."

"We shouted and our husbands who gave chase, along with a man from one of the attractions, the two girls from the doughnut van and two of the park rangers. But they couldn't catch them."

"The youths dropped about £2 in loose change as they ran away. They were aged about 18."

She added: "It's just such a shame after all the effort we put in to raise the money. In all the years that we



Ellie the dog, Val Haynes, left and Barbara Lewthwaite, of the Manic Mutts charity

ran the dog show nothing like this ever happened to us. I hope whoever is responsible is caught and punished. We're now appealing to the public for help to replace this money."

Manic Mutts held a popular dog show in the grounds of St Giles Church in Walsall Street, Willenhall, and per-

formed pet displays at carnivals and village shows across the region until 2012 due to a fall in the number of competitors.

But the committee has continued to raise funds for animal charities. Donations should be made via 01922 865992.

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In Tokyo see its most fascinating districts, including the shopping and entertainment mecca of Ginza and the Akihabara electronic town - home to one of the first stores devoted to personal robots. Then to the north of the city there's the scenic area Nikko National Park, relatively unknown outside Japan. Surrounded by breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, forests and hot springs, a visit is made to one of the country's most extraordinary shrines - dedicated to one of its great Shogun warriors.

Kyoto, still considered to be its cultural heart has carefully retained far more of historical Japan than any other major city. With exquisite shrines, temples, Zen gardens and traditional handicrafts, the city is an absolute treasure-trove.

Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the eighth century. Here, traditional culture first took root and is famous for its great Buddhist monuments including a large bronze buddha as well as time-honoured festivals.

Hiroshima is forever destined to be synonymous with the world's first use of an atomic bomb and a visit is made to the Peace Memorial Park and museum, with the shattered remains of the nearby dome marking the epicentre of the blast.

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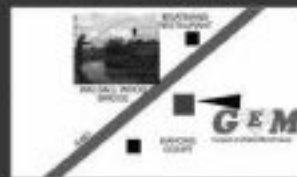
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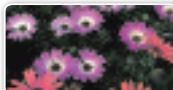
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Rough start leads to a diamond milestone

THEIR romance got off to a rocky start but blossomed into a marriage that has so far lasted 60 years.

After rebuffs and a six-year courtship Harry Griffiths finally got the girl and saw his bride Margaret walk down the aisle.

The pair tied the knot at All Saints' Church, in Bloxwich, on June 12, 1954. The couple, who still live in the town, met outside the old Rosum Cinema, in Leamore, on a blind date arranged by Mr Griffith's brother's fiancée.

Mrs Griffiths, aged 83, said: "We have a good marriage because we look after each other and share things. We met after Harry was de-mobbed from the Army in 1948. I used to tell him not to come back to see me because we used to argue all the time over every little thing. He must have liked me because he kept coming back. We didn't marry for another six years."

Factory

There is no such thing as a long courtship these days, but it did help me to decide whether I wanted to settle down with Harry."

Mr Griffiths, aged 87, served in Egypt after the Second World War and worked in a factory when he returned home. Mrs Griffiths did various jobs including as a leather worker in a glove factory followed by a stint at former tent maker Hawleys, in Bloxwich.

The couple, of Somerfield Road, grew up in the town and now live near the house where Mr Griffiths was born in the same street. They have two children Karen, aged 50, and Paul, aged 55; grandchildren Amy, aged 25, Rachel, aged 23, Alex, aged 18; and great granddaughter Charlotte, aged six. They celebrated at a party held at Goals Soccer, in Darlaston, attended by 70 family and friends.



Margaret and Harry Griffiths, from Bloxwich, with their card from the Queen



The happy couple seen at All Saints Church on their big day 60 years ago

School expansion scheme

A SCHOOL is poised to get the go-ahead for expansion plans despite it leading to the development of green belt land.

Watling Street Junior Mixed Infant School in Brownhills wants to create a single-storey extension with new nursery and reception classrooms, toilets, cloakrooms and meeting space.

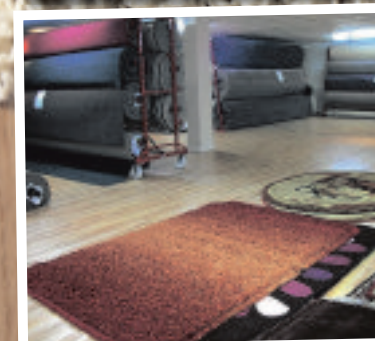
A mobile building was condemned as unsafe and closed last December

following bad weather. It was vacated and demolished and now the school in Watling Street is looking to create an extension to the main building in the grounds, which caters for 181 pupils and 26 nursery places.

No objections have been lodged against the proposals which were being recommended for approval at a planning meeting being held today, Thursday.

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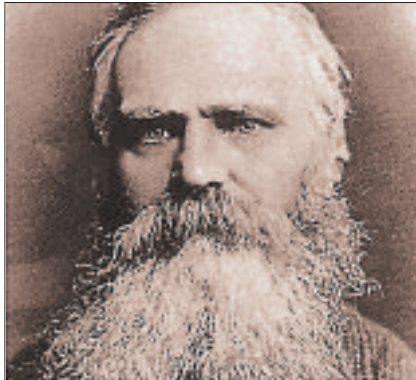
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The bustling saddle shop seen in the 1970's with John Hammond, centre



History – saddlemaker Jabez Cliff



Cricket balls – The company's stand at the British industries fair in 1938



Staff at work in the bridles cutters shop, again in 1904



Oldest in Walsall – Jabez Cliff's cutting room, 1904

A sad farewell to two centuries of expertise which helped build town

AS a company which helped put Walsall on the map, saddlers Jabez Cliff had world-beating expertise and the borough is still reeling from the shock of its closure after 221 years.

Jabez Cliff's Barnsby saddles became world famous, a favourite with riders around the world including the Royal Family and the company has held the Royal Warrant since 1990. Handmade Barnsby saddles are also used by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and The Household Cavalry.

Saddlery work will continue at the Aldridge Road factory. It has been bought out of administration by another Walsall saddle company.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said: "This is a very old and established business so it is a very sad loss for the town, but this is the economy we are in at the moment and the saddle market is still very competitive."

Aldridge-Brownhills MP Sir Richard

MEMORY LANE

By Simon Penfold

Shepherd said: "I am desperately sad as this is part of the history and grandeur of Walsall and the leather trade. Right at the top was Jabez Cliff."

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "This is a tough time and everyone will have the utmost feelings for those who are losing their jobs. The Jabez Cliff history in the leather trade dates back to 1793 and George Cliff, who made leather breeches in a small workshop behind his home in Badger's Yard, Park Street in Walsall. One of his sons, also called George, followed his father into the leather trade in 1793, to be followed in turn by his son Jabez."

It was Jabez Cliff who started the saddlery business, in Portland Street, and after his death in a typhoid epidemic his wife and daughter Mary ran it for a year before Mary married a bridlemaker called

Frederick Tibbits in 1882. It was their son, Jabez Cliff Tibbits, who turned the business into a major force in the industry.

He joined the family firm in 1902 and four years later he made an audacious, and successful bid to buy the more famous saddle-making company of JA Barnsby & Sons, based at the nearby Globe Works in Lower Forster Street.

The whole business was based at the site from 1910. The business relied on exports to Germany and Russia, but during the First World War diversified into making cricket balls, golf bags and leather cases. As the demand for saddles declined in the age of the motor car, the company continued to adapt.

By the early 1920s Jabez Cliff Tibbits became managing director and continued to oversee growth. The firm's Globe non-tear football was used in four FA Cup Finals and the 1928 Olympic Games.

A mayor of Walsall and an alderman, he was knighted in 1948 for his services to the town. Sir Cliff, as he was known, died in

1974. The company had a tradition of long service. In November 2005 the company closed on a working day for the first time in its history for the funeral of director Oliver Morton.

Mr Morton, who was 90 when he died, started work on the shop floor in 1929, rose through the ranks and became chairman and president of the company.

He stayed on for a quarter of a century after he officially retired. The decision to move came four years later.

The firm's 40-strong workforce was relocated to a converted barn in 2009 and stables, allowing customers more room to park horse boxes outside. The company continued in its new home, but it is understood was weighed down by problems from the property deal.

There was a long delay before the building could be sold and the £1.2 million price was substantially less than had been originally expected. The Globe Works building was subsequently destroyed in a huge blaze in 2011 and later demolished.

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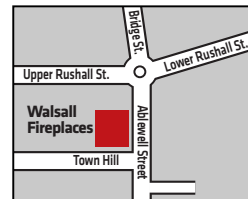
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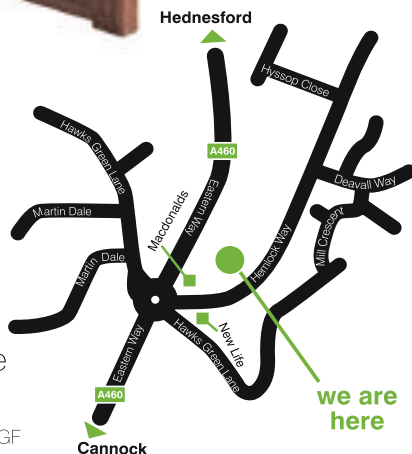
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Beacon shines to help brides on a budget



Tracey Ford, aged 50, retail operations manager and shop Manager Dawn Sawbridge, 52, from Halesowen

A CHARITY is launching a special pre-loved bridal department at one of its fundraising shops. Wedding dresses and other outfits are now available in Beacon Centre for the Blind's Bloxwich store.

And bosses have launched an appeal for donations to be made. The store, in 220 High Street, sells an array of wedding dresses and accessories, gentlemen's formal wear, mother-of-the-bride outfits, hats, bags and shoes.

Tracey Ford, retail operations manager for the charity, said: "We selected Bloxwich as the ideal location to house our growing stock of bridalwear and formal clothing, and we are already welcoming local people who want to look good and feel great as their special day will help to support people living with a visual impairment."

"With the average wedding now costing around £18,000 - and the bride's outfit alone taking over £1,000 - more and more people are looking for ways to cut costs but still have the perfect big day."

"Anyone with pre-loved formal clothing, especially bridesmaid dresses, mother of the bride outfits and accessories, can donate them at any of our shops, and we will deliver them to the new wedding department at Bloxwich."

To find out more on how to help, visit www.beacon4blind.co.uk

Robber's jail term is reduced

A THUG who took part in robberies at Co-operative supermarkets in the Midlands has convinced top judges to slash his sentence by a year.

Amandeep Singh, aged 26, was part of a masked group which held up terrified staff at the Co-op stores, including at Sutton Road, Walsall, before making off with a total of £1,200. Singh, was jailed for four-and-a-half years at Stafford Crown Court in January.

By Lisa O'Brien

The defendant, of Salisbury Road, Birchfield, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to rob and last week, three top judges at London's Appeal Court upheld Singh's sentence challenge, saying his jail term was 'too high' and must be cut to three-and-a-half years.

Mr Justice Irwin said Singh had played a 'minor role' in two of the raids, which were part of a wider crime wave that involved £32,000 being stolen during robberies at the chain's branches between January and November, 2012.

Other branches targeted included Stourport Road, in Kidderminster; High Street in Cheslyn Hay; Brewood Road in Coven; and Lodge Lane in Bridgnorth.

Singh was among raiders who wore scarves or balaclavas to cover their faces as they carried out a heist at a Co-op in Tamworth just before 10pm on April 18, 2012, stealing £200 from the tills.

He was then part of a second team which raided a Co-op in Walsall on August 6, 2012. One of the robbers vaulted the till, before forcing the staff to open the safe and about £1,000 was taken from the shop.

Police later recovered a bag used in the stick-up, which bore Singh's DNA as well as that of one of his co-accused.

Singh was arrested but did not admit his involvement until the first day of his trial in October, 2013.

He said he had no involvement in the other heists and had been 'pressurised' into getting involved. A pre-sentence report revealed that Singh had been estranged from his family and was in the grip of a cannabis dependency at the time.

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Bostin Bloxwich...

Being part of the Black Country, Bloxwich grew rapidly in the 18th century around coal mining, iron smelting and various manufacturing industries, as part of the Industrial Revolution. Manufacturing in the area consisted of bridle bits, stirrups, keys, cabinet locks, plain irons, buckle tongues, chains and saddles. Its most famous product of manufacture were awl blades, which it is reputed to have surpassed all other places in the United Kingdom in manufacturing. In the early 19th century, Bloxwich was still a village. Most of its inhabitants were employed in the newly founded mining and forging industries, as well as light metalworking. It is also known for its canals.

Bloxwich was heavily developed between the wars for council housing. Most were constructed around Blakenall Heath, as well as Harden and Goscote. In the 20 years which followed the Second World War, the Lower Farm, Beechdale and Mossley estates were also erected as council housing developments, while

the southern side of Harden was developed along with the Rivers Estate at Blakenall Heath. Many privately owned houses, mostly in the Little Bloxwich area, were also constructed. In the 1990s and 2000s, many new housing developments have sprung up both in Bloxwich and at Blakenall Heath.

Bloxwich town centre is still mostly made up of Victorian and Edwardian buildings and leafy parks and gardens, which maintain its origins as a Staffordshire village. Good built examples are Bloxwich Hospital, Bloxwich Hall, All Saints Church and several private houses in Station Street, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton Street and Sandbank. From the Georgian period to the 1960s, Bloxwich had more public houses than any other town in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, though these have begun to disappear. A focal point is the well-known Bloxwich Fountain in the Promenade Gardens. The church contains the original cemetery which dates back to the early 18th century.

Call to scoop up poop

DOG owners are being urged to clean up after their pets following concerns from residents on an estate.

Complaints have been made by people living in the Crab Lane and Kewstoke Road areas of Willenhall.

Councillor Ian Shires, representative for the area, has now appealed to dog walkers to act responsibly. "It only takes a minute to do the right thing and scoop the poop," he said. "It can result in blindness if someone has a close encounter with the stuff. A point worth remembering, it could cost you a whopping £1,000 fine."

Deadline to resolve parking is set down

A SCHOOL has been given until the end of the year to find parking for parents after a neighbouring pub car park closed.

Walsall Council has previously warned Hydesville Tower School in Walsall that it needs to come up with a solution. And now it has formally issued a notice to bosses, giving them until December 17 to find alternative parking.

The school had been granted planning permission for an expansion in 2009 on the condition that an agreement with the Park Tavern pub for use of its car park continued, or that a replacement facility was provided.

Now the Park Tavern has been sold to McCarthy & Stone for retirement homes and the new owners are not carrying on the deal with the school.

Hydesville Tower battled six years ago to get a planning application passed to extend its art and technology buildings and rearrange classrooms.

Permission

The school had just six parking spaces of its own and is located on a busy red route, meaning cars cannot stop outside.

But permission was given after school staff and and council officers worked together to draw up a travel plan. The school agreed to bring in a school bus, a car share data base and cycle facilities.

It was spelt out that if the targets were not met, the school would not be able to take any new nursery school pupils until the problem was resolved.

For those parents less able to take advantage of other means of transport, parking at the pub was se-

cured, or a suitable replacement if access ended. A legally-binding Section 106 agreement was put in place.

A report to the planning committee reveals roads around the school have become even more clogged since the pub car park was shut.

It says: "This is now starting to cause problems for residents being able to park near to their houses during the day and especially at peak times for the coming and goings to the school."

Council officials have been speaking to school staff about action that can be taken.

Headmaster Andrew McGinnes said: "I am under no illusion that this school, like a vast number of others, faces a challenge in relation to parking."

"I am also sure of our commitment to contribute positively to the community - of which we are proud to be a part - and will continue to seek and implement solutions to this matter."

He previously said the school had 'signposted parents' to on-street parking bays' and launched a walking bus organised by staff.

Bosses have also 'underlined the importance of considerate and safe parking to parents', he said.

SOMETIMES life just has a way of getting it right. On the day after his television set broke down, never to be revived, music fan Dave Fenton won a brand new 42-inch TV set.

The winner, from Brownhills, bagged the £400 LG model after buying raffle tickets at a mini music festival in Burntwood to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust, championed by teenager Stephen Sutton.

The television was donated by the Apollo 2000 store in the Orbital Retail Park in Cannock. Manager Paul Hill said: "We're really happy to support such a deserving charity and help

carry on the work started by Stephen.

"We have a goodwill budget and this seemed an ideal way to use some of it. We're also delighted that the TV went to such a deserving cause as Dave who does a lot of charity work with grass roots football."

The raffle took place at a Thumbs Up mini-festival at Burntwood Rugby Club. Around 3,000 revelers packed into the ground on Saturday to watch live music, helping to raise more than £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The celebration took place on the day Stephen was honoured with a posthumous MBE.


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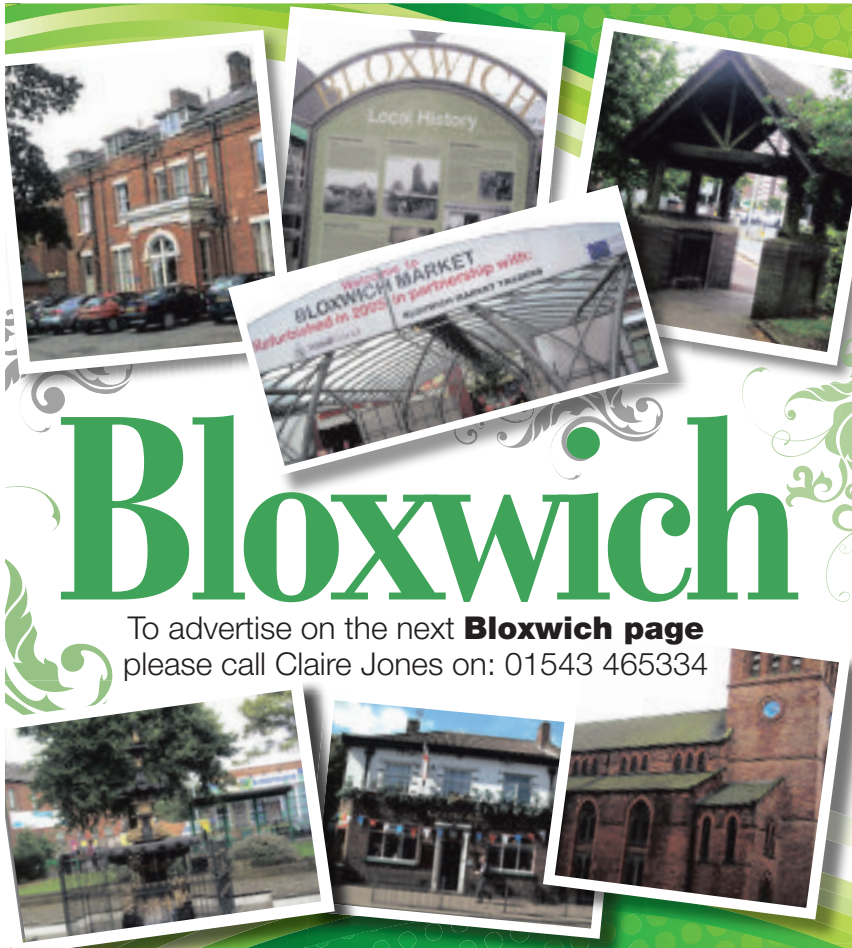
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Goodbye and Good Luck!

You have been a fantastic Year 6 and should be very proud of what you have achieved during your time at Chuckery. We hope you will continue to work hard and make the most of every opportunity to learn and try something new.

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GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK!

Charles Cuddy Walker Academy

All the staff at Charles Cuddy Walker would like to wish year 6 all the very best for the future in everything they do.

"I like being at school because we do lots of competitions such as the talent show and we have fun PE lessons"
 - Courtney Dacre

"CCWA is the best school ever I had a great time I will miss everyone and all the teachers and the ones I will miss most are the teachers that have put all their faith into me and I want to thank them"
 - Reece McCulloch

"I had fun when we all went to the trip to watch James and the Giant Peach I had so much fun I can remember all that"
 - Ayesah Bibi

"My fondest memory of school are the amazing trips we have been on especially Conkers, Drayton Manor and taking part in the Talent Chocolate Factory and the Talent show"
 - Lyndsey Perkins

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DOING THINGS THE ALUMWELL WAY

Alumwell Junior School celebrates its 60th Birthday this year, Headteacher Max Vlahakis and his dedicated team are looking forward to an even brighter future.

Mr Vlahakis is the Executive Headteacher of a newly formed federation between Alumwell Junior School and Butts Primary School. The federation is built successfully on solid teamwork and mutual support, sharing the wealth of outstanding teaching experience and well-led school management. Both schools are beginning to benefit from each other's strength.

Alumwell Junior School's facilities are first-rate, with the building of a new school entrance, themed library and computing floor with state of the art facilities, all due for completion in the Autumn Term.

It's often said that once you attend Alumwell you never really leave - this holds true for the many mother and daughter teams employed by the school and ex pupils returning as staff. The sense of being part of an extended family is at the heart of what Alumwell stands for there is a real feeling of pride in being part of the school community.

As part of the 60th birthday celebrations Alumwell are filming a very special version of 'Back to the Future' which will involve the whole school, including the staff, dressing up in various costumes from the 50s, 60, 70s and 80s. The famous DeLorean car even makes

an appearance! The film will be premiered at the school's 60th birthday party and the trailer will be making an appearance on the school website.

The school's innovative streak stretches to the inclusion of Mr Bill Bailey, who is an extremely important member of staff - the fact that he is a Labrador dog doesn't stop him from being the children's favourite teacher! Bill is a specially trained therapy dog who helps the pupils when they need support.

The breadth of extra provision for Alumwell pupils encompasses clubs and activities such as presenting radio shows on the schools very own 'AJS Fm', movie making, coding, Forest School, guitar club, Artyfacts, Lego club and 'Creative Beat' - not to mention the wealth of sporting activities where both girls and boys football and cricket teams regularly win tournaments at borough level.

This year, Year 6 pupils will end on a high, having recently returned from Bryntillio Outdoor Centre and of course, our ever popular Year 6 'OSCARS Leaving Ceremony' bringing parents, pupils and teachers together to celebrate pupil achievements at Alumwell Junior School.

The school would like to wish the Year 6 cohort goodbye and good luck and ask them to remember in their remaining time at our school - "Let's not count the days. Let's make the days count!"



BUTTS PRIMARY LIVES UP TO YEAR 6'S CATCHPHRASE !

Work Hard Play Harder.

Newly appointed Headteacher Angela Hill has a lot to celebrate, the schools recent HMI inspection is full of positive news about the schools huge progress.

The report stated that the pupils' rates of progress have improved sharply in most classes across the school.

It also said that "substantial improvements have been made in the quality of teaching" and "the improvement in the schools ethos is palpable".

Butts Primary now has a relationship with Alumwell Junior School and this federation "has continued to yield substantial benefits especially in terms of school leadership and the sharing of expertise of staff in both schools."

Butts Primary is very proud of their pupils and they have every reason to be, sporting excellence has been achieved this year by their Cricket team who have won the Walsall borough cricket championship and will go on to represent the school at county level.

This year will also see the launch of the schools very own radio station "Butts Rocks FM". Soon pupils and teachers will be able to tune in daily to hear the latest world and school news along with a requested tune of the day! The school is also expected to have their best ever performance in the SATs exams. The children and the staff all worked incredibly hard to get these

results and they are proof that all the changes that have been implemented are working for the benefit of the pupils.

Next September will see the launch of a stricter school uniform; the governors of the school have very kindly agreed to fund one sweatshirt or cardigan that has the school logo on it for each student, so we look forward to seeing everyone in their new uniform in September! All the pupils at Butts Primary have a rich extra-curricular program that they can join. This includes: Film Club/Netball/Art Club/Cooking/Reading/Football/Dodge ball and cricket clubs to name but a few!

The facilities at the school really are second to none with a large green field site and one of the best outdoor Early Years facilities in Walsall, all aspects of your child's early years and junior education are catered for at Butts. The school has recently re-designed its Library which pupils absolutely love.

There are very few places remaining at the school for September so if you have recently moved near to the school or are thinking of changing your child's primary school, please call to make an appointment to visit.

The schools staff have recently been getting the Year 6 pupils prepared for their next steps at high school and would like to wish all of Year 6 the best of luck in the future.



NEW HEADTEACHER, ANGELA HILL



SCHOOL CRICKET TEAM



EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR AREA

GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK YEAR 6



Year 6 has been an electrifying experience. The trips are amazing, the teachers are the best and the lessons are always really fun. It is so sad to be leaving, I wish I could do it all over again. Being in Year 6 at Alumwell Junior School is the best way to send us off to Secondary School. I could never forget what an amazing year it has been. So let's not count the days, let's make the days count.

Kete Asatiani - Kalandaze

I consider that I have improved, also I feel that year 6 has been a wild rush. I mean my grades have risen and I've had fun doing it. Yep year 6 is awesome, I'd do it again in a heart beat.

Aundray Gow

I have had a thrilling time at year 6 and from day one I thought it's all about sats but its not really, its about having fun. It will be upsetting when I leave but I am really looking forward to the Oscars on 4th July 2014.

Maariya Sadiq

Alumwell Junior School
Primley Avenue, Walsall WS2 9UP
01922 721391
postbox@alumwell-j.walsall.sch.uk



GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK

Good Luck at High School



Kyran Galloway, 11, - Year 6

The work is challenging in a good way and the trips are fun while still staying on school topics the lessons are also usually quite fun. I think this school is making great progress.

Keisha Henry, 11, Year 6

In year 6 my experience has been amazing. We have been on lots of different trips such as - Black Country Museum, Bowling (Last Friday), there has been Cricket Tournament and we are the Walsall Champions and Bookbusters. Our Motto is work hard, play harder.

Radeyah Hussain, 11, Year 6

Butts School is very fun but also hardworking! Work hard player harder! This is our motto, we are very good at sports. I am really looking forward to the Oscars and the Leavers Assembly.

Jayden Campbell, 11, Year 6

I think that our school has progressed a lot in many things, but I think that the best thing we have progressed in was our Sport and that makes me very proud.

Butts Primary School



"One school, one community"

www.butts.walsall.sch.uk
Butts Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS4 2AH
01922 721073

'Good Year' for Lower Farm Primary

It has been a great year at Lower Farm primary school topped off with a successful OFSTED Inspection.

The School has been awarded a "GOOD" rating in all the categories that they mark.

Ofsted has some very positive things to say about the school praising the teaching -

"Teaching is consistently good, with teachers planning activities well to match the abilities of different groups of pupils"

They also commented about the pupil's behavior saying -

"Pupils Behavior is good. Pupils are generally polite and courteous to each other and the adults in the school.

They also mentioned the fact that Lower Farm Primary prepares their pupils for their next steps into senior school -

"Pupils leave the school at the end of year 6 with attainment that is well above the national average".

The Headteacher of the school and the staff also came in for praise with OFSTED stating that-

"The Headteacher, senior leaders and the governing body have focused successfully on improving teaching

and pupils' learning. As a result, the school has improved significantly since its last inspection".

The success has been the result of a lot of hard work from the students and teachers alike with numerous and innovative strategies to improve attendance (which is now in the high 90% bracket every week) Learning - by giving the children access to the latest technology and excellent quality teaching.

The school also provides a huge extracurricular offering to its students by offering a wide range of clubs / activities and experiences in order to develop their potential and maintain a healthy interest in a broad range of subjects.

The staff at the school also take a huge interest in the children's social and emotional well being so that their time at Lower Farm is happy.

The school will be expanding its nursery provision in Sept 2014 and there are still some limited places in other year groups throughout the school.

The school would be happy to speak to any prospective pupils parents and would encourage you to visit the school to see the fantastic provision they have for your Childs primary education.



Headteacher Sarah Milner



Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6!

Some Nursery places still available for September 2014




Inspiring excellence through learning together




Lower Farm Primary School
Bakewell Close, Walsall WS3 3QH
T. 01922 710479

E. postbox@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk



Rivers Primary Academy, Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6

FREE Full Time Nursery Places available from Sept 2014



I've really enjoyed my years at Rivers Academy, especially all the school trips and experiences I've been able to take part in.
Summer
Jamie

Rivers Primary Academy is a great place to learn because the teachers find a way to teach you that fits your style of learning.
Cameron

I loved my trip to France, it was an amazing experience and I loved the chocolate!
Tyler

I've had a great time at Rivers Primary. The outdoor education based on PE, cooking and really fun education!
Harrison

On a Wednesday we have an enrichment afternoon which involves the school knowing different things in our curriculum.
Jamie

I have really enjoyed my time at Rivers, especially the fun trips such as Drayton Manor.
Ferdie

I've really enjoyed my time at Rivers. On Wednesday afternoons you have the opportunity to do various activities such as French, cooking and ICT animation etc.
Kameron



Mersey Road, Walsall WS3 INP 01922 710164
postbox@rivers.walsall.sch.uk



Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6

"This is a good school teaching is good pupils' behaviour is good."
Ofsted
June 2014

We are extremely proud of our Year 6 pupils who have made excellent progress this year. We wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their learning.




Call us to find out more about joining our school in Sept 2014.

Goldsmith Primary Academy

Goldsmith Road, Walsall WS3 1DL
(Main vehicle entrance Masfield Road, WS3 1DE)
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Website: www.goldsmith.walsall.sch.uk

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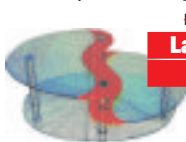
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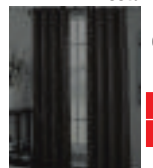
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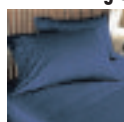
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CHOICE



Phillip Schofield

The Cube: Celebrity Special (ITV, 7.30pm)

Mollie King from the Saturdays tackles a series of fiendishly difficult challenges as she tries to win up to £250,000 for her chosen charity. Cheered by on bandmates Una Foden, Frankie Sandford, Rochelle Humes and Vanessa White in the studio, the singer is under intense pressure to hold her nerve and avoid slip-ups inside The Cube. Back in 2012, Mo Farah became the first contestant to walk away with the jackpot – a feat nobody else has managed since. How will Mollie compare to the Olympic gold medalist? Phillip Schofield is on hand to provide words of encouragement.

BBC1

Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2014. The sixth day's play continues. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. Group A Winner v Group B Runner-Up (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 BBC News: Weather.

7.30 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Jason Manford presents the game show, with Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell joined by actor Patrick Robinson, comedian Sean Walsh and sporting stars Iwan Thomas and Sharron Davies.

8.10 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. New series. Nick Knowles returns with the game show in which three pairs of contestants – a married couple, a father and daughter and two work colleagues – take part in several question-and-answer sessions in a bid to be the last duo standing. The winners have the chance to play for the money in the safe – with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with chart star Pixie Lott dropping in for a chat and to press the all-important button.

9.00 Casualty. Fletcher makes a huge sacrifice to save Tess when she is involved in a horrendous train crash. Connie spends her first day as clinical lead, while Ethan and Lily make up.

9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll as a doting mother-of-six who constantly interferes with her children's lives. (R)

10.20 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.40 Kevin Bridges – The Story Continues. The Glasgow comedian returns to his home town, treating a sell-out crowd at the SECC Arena to his usual blend of social commentary, astute observations and sharp one-liners. (R)

11.40 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. Action from the first two matches in the last 16 in Brazil, which took place in Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte.

12.25 Film: Final Analysis. (1992) 2.20 Weathering. 2.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Big Sky. (1952) Western, starring Kirk Douglas. **8.00** MOTD Kickabout. **8.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Magazine series presented by Gabby Logan. **9.00** World Cup Films. **10.45** Wimbledon 2014. Live coverage of the opening matches on day six.

8.00 Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches were due to reach a conclusion. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Sabine Lisicki and Novak Djokovic, the two players who would eventually finish as runners-up, progressing to the fourth round with respective victories over Samantha Stosur and Jeremy Chardy, while Laura Robson – out of this year's tournament through injury – was another popular victor out on Court Two.

9.00 Mock the Week. Host Dara O'Brian and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons are joined by Angela Barnes, Miles Jupp, Romesh Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe on the topical comedy quiz. The panelists give their take on the week's major news stories and participate in a series of stand-up spots and improvised games. (R)

9.30 Glastonbury 2014. Jo Whitley, Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens present live coverage of one of the most talked about headline acts ever to grace Worthy Farm as American metal superstars Metallica take their place on the Pyramid stage. There are also highlights of performances from the second full day at Glastonbury, including music by Pixies, MGMT, John Grant and Manic Street Preachers, as well as some bespoke acoustic moments and a peek at the late-night shenanigans that go on around the massive site under the cover of darkness.

1.30 Film: Hard Candy. (2006) Thriller, with Patrick Wilson and Ellen Page. **3.10** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. A chance to see in full one of the first two matches in the last 16, which featured the Group C winner v the Group D runner-up, and the Group A winner v the Group B runner-up. **4.55** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** Dinner Date. (R) **2.30** Fool Britannia. (R) **3.00** Tipping Point. (R)

4.00 The Chase. (R) **5.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.45** Catchphrase. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and mobile-phone footage, featuring clips of cooking with gas, saddling up and something never before seen on the programme. (R)

7.30 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Mollie King from the Saturdays tackles a series of fiendishly difficult challenges as she tries to win up to £250,000 for her chosen charity. Cheered by on bandmates Una Foden, Frankie Sandford, Rochelle Humes and Vanessa White in the studio, the singer is under intense pressure to hold her nerve and avoid slip-ups inside The Cube. Back in 2012, Mo Farah became the first contestant to walk away with the jackpot – a feat nobody else has managed since. How will Mollie compare to the Olympic gold medalist? Phillip Schofield is on hand to provide words of encouragement.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Group C Winner v Group D Runner-Up (Kick-off 9.00pm). Coverage of the second match in the last 16, which takes place at the Estadio do Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News: Weather.

11.30 Film: Gone. (2007) A British couple travel through the Australian Outback with a backpacker who uses mind games to drive them apart. Thriller, with Shaun Evans, Scott Mechlowicz and Amelia Warner.

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FM Superbike World Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.50** The Tomorrow People. **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Retired golfer David Wither hosts the final evening in Kingston upon Thames, south-west London, and hopes to impress with an American-themed menu, including Wyoming slow-cooked ribs and Louisiana seafood chowder. After dinner, he entertains his guests with a bucking bronco, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Film: Transformers. (2007) Teenager Sam Witwicky is treated to his first car by his dad, but it turns out to be an alien scout with a life of its own. Before long, the vehicle embroils Sam in a long-running intergalactic war between two factions of giant shape-changing robots, which have come to Earth to find a mystical cube that grants infinite power to its possessor. Michael Bay's sci-fi action adventure, inspired by the toy franchise, with Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Jon Voight and John Turturro. Edited for language.

10.00 Film: Van Helsing. (2004) A vampire slayer sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Gothic action adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale.

12.35 Film: Terminal Velocity. (1994) A skydiving instructor helps a Russian spy foil an international criminal conspiracy to steal a fortune in bullion. Action thriller, starring Charlie Sheen and Nastassja Kinski. **1.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly and Dirk worry that Cindy might be hiding something from them, and the Roscoe boys promise not to push Rick out of their lives again. (R) **4.25** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall revisits his summer of vegetarian living. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.45** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.00** The Hunt for Hitler's Missing Millions. (R) **1.00** Film: Away All Boats. (1956) Second World War drama, starring Jeff Chandler. **3.15** Film: Under Ten Flags. (1960) Second World War drama, starring Charles Laughton and Van Heflin. **5.10** 5 News. **5.15** Film: Columbo: Short Fuse. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Roddy McDowall.

6.40 Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse. (1972) A penniless rare plant collector, desperate for funds to support his expensive hobby, takes his nephew's kidnapping to get his hands on a trust fund. However, the supposed victim turns up dead, prompting Columbo to take action to unmask the killer. Detective drama, starring Peter Falk, Bradford Dillman and Ray Milland. Edited for violence.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 The 12-Year-Old Shopaholic, and Other Big Spending Kids. Four children whose expensive tastes are indulged by their parents. Chase from Kent is a beauty pageant winner who is addicted to designer labels and also the proud owner of a pony, while Romy from north London possesses at least 50 handbags, but argues she is saving her mum and dad money because she won a scholarship to a fee-paying school. Nine-year-old Zak's divorced parents regularly shower him with toys and clothes, while 15-year-old Lauren's mother holds down three jobs to keep her daughter in the latest fashions. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

10.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. This edition of the programme focuses on large families who depend on the benefits system, including an Ipswich couple who have 13 children. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Kodaline & Kelis @ Glastonbury
8.00 Lana Del Rey & Jack White @ Glastonbury **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.30** Jake Bugg @ Glastonbury **12.00** Family Guy **1.50** American Dad! **2.30** Uncle **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **8.00** Robert Plant @ Glastonbury **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Bryan Ferry @ Glastonbury **12.15** Top of the Pops: 1979 **12.55** Storyville: Muscle Shoals – The Greatest Recording Studio in the World **2.45** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.20 I Wanna Marry "Harry" **12.15** The Only Way Is Maris **2.00** Film: Honey **(2003)** **4.00** You've Been Framed and Famous! **5.00** You've Been Framed! **5.30** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.15** Film: Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **11.00** Film: White Chicks (2004) **1.15** Film: License to Wed (2007) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.35 Wyclef **1.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bombs Girls **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Greatest World Cup Goals **12.25** Film: The Burbs (1989) **2.25** Film: The Story of Dr Wassell (1944) **5.10** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.50** Hornblower **10.00** Banders **11.00** Film: Buried (2010) **1.00** Film: National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993) **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** Rude (ish) Tube **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: Star Trek: First Contact (1996) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** Rude Tube **12.12** **12.50** 2 Broke Girls **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.05** Glee **4.50** Desperate Housewives

11.00 40 Guns to Apache Pass (1967) **1.00** Independence Day (1996) **3.45** Baby's Day Out (1994) **5.35** Summer (2008) **7.15** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.00** The Karate Kid (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. **11.40** Troll Hunter (2010) **1.45** Don't Look Now (1973) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar (BBC1, 10.35pm)
Eric Idle once joked that the Monty Python team would only get back together if Graham Chapman came back from the dead. There’s been no sign of a Lazarus-like resurrection from the pipe-smoking sixth member of the team, and yet back in November the comedy group announced a one-off show at London’s O2. Demand was so high that more dates were quickly added yet Cleese and co have been at pains to point out that this is not only a reunion – it’s also a farewell. The Pythons have decided this will be the last time they’ll work together as a group. Alan Yentob catches up with each member to give them the Spanish Inquisition, talking about individual projects.

BBC1

Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.
6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Flog It! (R) **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.40** Points of View. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. Group B Winner v Group A Runner-Up (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.30** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison are in Lincolnshire, where he meets one of the last surviving members of the Dambusters squadron and takes to the skies in a Lancaster bomber, and she goes searching for a rare orchid and helps take down the sails of an eight-sailed windmill – said to be the only one in existence. Adam Henson goes shopping for a white park bull and John Craven launches the annual photographic competition on a theme of “animal magic”. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.20** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay the first of two visits to Wentworth Woodhouse stately home near Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Items include a mahogany bureau once belonging to the property’s owner Earl Fitzwilliam, a delicate glass punch bowl that survived several visits to the air-raid shelter during the Second World War and a box of unpromising-looking bones that turns out to have quite a history. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations. **9.20** Casualty. Fletcher makes a huge sacrifice to save Tess when she is involved in a horrendous train crash. Connie spends her first day as clinical lead, while Ethan and Lily make up. (R) **10.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar. Alan Yentob catches up with the Monty Python team in the run-up to 10 reunion shows starting on Tuesday at London’s O2, the last time the comedy group will perform together. **12.05** Film: And Now for Something Completely Different. (1971) **1.30** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **2.15** Weatherview. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Lucky Jim. (1957) **7.45** Gardeners’ World. (R) **8.15** World Cup Films. **9.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Glastonbury 2014. **1.00** Live Athletics. The British Championships. **4.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. A Commonwealth Games special of the magazine series. **5.00** Glastonbury 2014. **7.00** Tropic of Cancer. Simon Reeve travels through Laos and Vietnam and concludes his trip in Hawaii on the final leg of his journey along the northern tropic. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** The Quest for Bannockburn. Part one of two. To mark the 700th anniversary of Robert the Bruce’s decisive victory in the First War of Scottish Independence at Bannockburn, Neil Oliver and Tony Pollard attempt to pinpoint the location of Scotland’s most iconic battlefield. They are joined by historians, archaeologists and environmental scientists as they set out to gather evidence to chart the events that ended in an overwhelming Scottish victory over Edward II’s English forces, helping seal Scotland’s future as an independent kingdom. **9.00** A Cabbie Abroad: Canada. Mason McQueen heads to Iqaluit on Baffin Island in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, where he joins a small band of taxi drivers who keep the city on the move in all weathers. The Londoner arrives at the coldest time of year and is put straight to work, facing the most difficult driving conditions he has ever encountered as he takes his life in his hands to battle Arctic storms, icy roads and winds gusting at 70mph. Through his passengers, Mason finds out that the indigenous Inuit people are losing their traditional values and way of life and are plagued by high levels of suicide, homelessness and drug abuse. **10.00** Glastonbury 2014. Jo Whaley, Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens present coverage of the last day of the festival, with Kasabian scheduled to headline the Pyramid stage. **1.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.
6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek’s Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek’s Adventures. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadline Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News. **11.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Nature’s Newborns. **2.00** Film: Columbo Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.00** The Chase. Four celebrity contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. (R) **6.55** Regional Programme; Weather. **7.05** ITV News; Weather. **7.20** Celebrity Catchphrase. Kym Marsh, Steve Pemberton and Rosemary Straker compete to identify familiar phrases hidden in animated clues to win thousands of pounds for charity. Stephen Mulhern hosts. (R) **8.20** FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Group D Winner v Group C Runner-Up (Kick-off 9.00pm). The fourth match in the last 16 takes place at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, and features the top team from England’s group. It is possible that one or both of the teams involved tonight have already played one match here, given that it hosted the Group C clash between Ivory Coast and Japan, as well as Italy v Costa Rica in Group D, which was arguably the stronger of the two groups. Of the eight possible teams that could play in this fixture, only three featured in the last 16 in South Africa four years ago, and each experienced contrasting fortunes. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change. **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Film: Midnight Run. (1988) Comedy thriller, starring Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin. **1.45** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British GT Championship. **7.05** Windsor Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke’s Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: The Golden Child. (1986) Comedy fantasy adventure, starring Eddie Murphy. **4.45** Deal or No Deal. **5.45** Film: Letters to Juliet. (2010) Romantic drama, starring Amanda Seyfried. **7.40** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Dolphins: Born in the Wild. Joy Reidenberg heads to New Zealand to uncover the mating strategy of dusky dolphins, and shows how marine mammals such as the harbour porpoise have evolved to reproduce in the ocean. Mark Evans visits Mexico to find out why whales travel 120,000 miles to find partners and how calves avoid ruthless predators underwater. The programme also witnesses the birth of a dolphin and reveals why they are born tail first. Last in the series. **9.00** Film: The King’s Speech. (2010) The younger son of George V struggles to cope with an uncontrollable stammer, prompting his wife to enlist the aid of an eccentric Australian speech therapist. The support and friendship of the doctor prove invaluable when a crisis places the repressed prince on the throne, just as the outbreak of the Second World War leaves the country in need of a strong king. Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter and Guy Pearce. **11.20** Film: Rising Sun. (1993) A cop and a mysterious detective investigate a conspiracy behind a prostitute’s murder in a Japanese company’s Los Angeles office. Thriller, with Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes. **1.35** Film: The Black Dahlia. (2006) Crime thriller, starring Josh Hartnett. **3.35** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall looks back at his vegetarianism. (R) **4.00** Kirstie’s Vintage Gems. (R) **4.05** Beat My Build. Property developers from England take on their Welsh counterparts. Last in the series. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.55** Countdown. With Dictionary Corner guest Jon Culshaw. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby’s Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe’s Closet. **7.00** Milkshake!: Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly’s Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.15** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **12.15** Big Brother. (R) **1.15** Film: What to Expect When You’re Expecting. (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz. **3.20** Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart. **5.05** Film: Stepmom. (1998) Drama, starring Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon. **7.20** Film: The Wedding Date. (2005) Film: The woman is horrified by the thought of attending her sister’s wedding alone, a task made all the more daunting by the presence of her ex-flame. Taking the bull by the horns, she hires a male escort for the occasion – but her decision has unexpected results. Romantic comedy, starring Debra Messing, Jack Davenport, Dermot Mulroney and Sarah Parish. Edited for language and sexual content. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. Conclusion of the two-part countdown of weight-loss methods, with scientists, industry experts and exponents explaining the pros and cons of fat diets and extreme exercise regimes. **11.00** Film: The Invasion. (2007) A psychiatrist and a doctor investigate the cause of a mysterious epidemic turning humans into zombies. Sci-fi thriller, starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig and Jeremy Northam. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.05** Angry Britain: Work Rage. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Ed Sheeran & Sam Smith @ Glastonbury **8.00** Bombay Bicycle Club & The Black Keys @ Glastonbury **9.00** Ellie Goulding @ Glastonbury **10.00** Disclosure Live @ Glastonbury **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live **2.11** 5.55 Murdered by My Boyfriend **2.55** Stacey Dooley: The Truth About Domestic Violence **3.55** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde **8.00** Queens of Country **9.00** Arena: The 50 Year Argument – The New York Review of Books **10.40** Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home **11.40** Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde **12.40** Queens of Country **1.40** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **3.10** Sounds of the Eighties **3.40** Close
ITV2
12.00 America’s Got Talent **1.55** You’ve Been Framed! **2.55** Funniest Ever You’ve Been Framed! **3.55** Film: Honey (2003) **5.50** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00** Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** TV Odd **11.20** Film: The Matrix (1999) **2.00** Ultimate You’ve Been Framed **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.20 Inspector Morse **1.40** Agatha Christie’s Marple **3.50** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Lewis **12.05** Film: Something’s Gotta Give (2003) **2.20** William and Mary **3.10** Murder, She Wrote **4.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **4.25** Emmerdale
ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** BRSC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.10** Film: The Island (1980) **1.25** Richard Bacon’s Beer and Pizza Club **2.15** Cheers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
5.00 New Girl **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Addams Family Values (1993) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory **10.20** Rude Tube 2012 **11.25** How I Met Your Mother **11.55** Rules of Engagement **12.55** The Ricky Gervais Show **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.45** Being Erica **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 10 Little Indians (1965) **1.00** Charlotte’s Web (2006) **2.50** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **5.10** Home Alone 3 (1997) **7.10** Bedazzled (2000) **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.35** Evil Dead (1987) **1.15** Hansel and Gretel (2007)

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32 Film Choices

MONDAY
Hush, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A doctor moves back to his home town with his family in tow, intending to lead a quiet life running his grandfather's medical practice. However, his plans are threatened by an obsessed old flame, who is determined to get him back and will go to any lengths to drive off his wife. Thriller, starring Tori Spelling, Victoria Pratt, Tahmoh Penikett and Susan Hogan. (2005)

TUESDAY
Killer Flood: The Day the Dam Broke, Channel 5, 3.10pm
An architect building a dam resigns from the construction company that employed him, citing poor standards and short-cuts. However, on a return visit, he realises the structure could collapse at any time – and although a nearby town seems doomed to a watery grave, he struggles to convince anyone of the danger they are in. Thriller, starring Joe Lando, Bruce Boxleitner and Michele Greene. (2003)

WEDNESDAY
Hard Target, ITV, 10.35pm
A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Yancy Butler, Lance Henriksen and Wilford Brimley. (1993)



We Own the Night, Thursday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
We Own the Night, ITV, 10.35pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall, Eva Mendes, Alex Veadov, Dominic Colon, Danny Hoch and Oleg Taktarov. (2007)

FRIDAY
Role Models, Channel 4, 12.05am
Two irresponsible salesmen find themselves in trouble with the law after crashing their truck. To avoid jail, they agree to undertake community service looking after a couple of troubled kids. However, it soon seems that jail would have been the easier option. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobb'e J Thompson, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Ken Jeong and Ken Marino. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Old friends get ready to take to the stage

Monty Python's Flying Circus is no more. It has ceased to be. It is an ex-comedy programme.

But five of the six men who made perhaps the most surreal series in the history of British TV – John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Michael Palin, Eric Idle and Terry Jones – are still alive and kicking, and on Tuesday begin a 20-day residency at the O2 in London.

Tickets were like gold dust, with extra dates added to keep the hoards of fans happy who desperately wanted to see their ageing heroes in action one last time. We're promised that even Graham Chapman, who died in 1989, will appear via archive footage on a huge video screen.

It should almost feel as if they've never been away, despite the fact they've all carved out very different careers since their last project, the controversial Meaning of Life in 1983 (although the musical Spamalot was supported by all the Pythons and was based on the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, which was the branch of life of Idle only).

But why get back together at all?

"Purely financial," admits Palin. "We've had this court case hanging around when one of the producers of The Holy Grail decided he needed a bit more of the cut from Spamalot – and court cases don't come cheap. Something had to push us into it!"

"But the speed at which the tickets sold was astounding to us all. So, there are a lot of friends of Python out there."

As anybody who tuned in to the original show will tell you, it really WAS something completely different. What other programme offered funny walks in Ealing, a member of the Spanish Inquisition known as Cardinal Fang, a dead Norwegian parrot, nun boiling in Doncaster, Hell's Grannies in Teddington and a provocative fish-slapping dance down the docks?

However, Python nearly didn't exist at all. Instead, it could have been called The Toad Elevating Moment or Owl Stretching Time, both of which were rejected by the BBC. But whatever the name, the brand of humour would have remained the same – and no doubt have still gone

on to influence thousands of comedians.

Initially, the series was meant as a vehicle for Cleese and Chapman, who had worked successfully together on The Frost Report. But Cleese wasn't keen on the idea of a two-handed show, and so approached Palin. He, Jones, Idle and Gilliam were supposed to be working together on an ITV series, but when it stalled, he suggested the four of them could join Cleese and Chapman at the BBC – and so Monty Python was born.

Their bizarre form of humour, inspired in part by their mutual love of The Goons on radio and Spike Milligan's TV series Q, was quickly branded 'surreal' by some, although that didn't nearly describe it well enough. And so, a new word was needed – hence the creation of the term 'Pythonesque'.

Here, Alan Yentob meets Cleese, Gilliam, Palin, Idle and Jones as they prepare to take to the stage together, 40 years after the Python TV show's demise. And so, a new word was needed – hence the creation of the term 'Pythonesque'.



The Pythons' preparations for their reunion shows, Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar, Sunday, BBC1, 10.35pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
The Cost of Cheap Alcohol: Channel 4 Dispatches

Channel 4, 8pm
Once upon a time, anyone wanting to buy in a substantial amount of cheap alcohol ready for a World Cup barbecue might have gone on a 'booze cruise' to France. Now they're more likely to pop down to the local supermarket, where multipack deals and falling prices mean you can pay as little as 70 pence for a pint of lager – and there are also plenty of bargains in the spirit and cider aisles. And while this may not be great news for the nation's landlords and ferry operators, should the rest of us be concerned as well? Antony Barnett counts the cost of alcohol-related crime, violence, accident and diseases, which is believed to run into billions.

Police Under Pressure BBC2, 9pm

These are difficult times for most of Britain's police forces as they try to absorb some substantial budget cuts, but as the first in this two-part documentary revealed last week, South Yorkshire Police are facing more challenges than most. Its reputation has been tainted by Hillsborough tragedy, while its crime figures are among the worst in the country – and unless the statistics improve, the force runs the risk of being taken over by government inspectors. With access to officers on the ground, as well as those in charge, the programme looks at how morale has been affected, and also examines the divisions among the senior ranks about how best to turn the force around in just six months.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden ITV, 7.30pm

Alan Titchmarsh comes to the aid of a couple who founded a charity to support bereaved families after the loss of their 23-month-old son. Claire and Ian Estick have a busy schedule fundraising and running their organisation, meaning their large L-shaped garden has become a confused mix of children's play equipment, a neglected greenhouse and overgrown shrubs and trees. Alan and the team set about transforming it into four distinct spaces, featuring a kitchen garden and a tranquil seating area, and show viewers how to tackle a towering leylandii hedge.

WEDNESDAY
This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show Channel 4, 8pm

They say that fashion takes 20 years to come full circle, with trends re-appearing after that two-decade marker, but Dawn O'Porter thinks we shouldn't bother waiting – trawling the country's vintage shops will find us all the unique, beautifully made clothing items we could ever ask for, and set us apart from the crowds. In tonight's episode, Dawn meets Emma from Reading, who loves high-street clothes but has lately

been feeling dissatisfied with her lacklustre wardrobe. Meanwhile, Dawn's sewing workshop does wonders for an old bomber jacket, and she gets to work on a 1940s tea dress. The presenter also takes a look back through the fashion archives to explain all about the maxi dress, and how the brashness of the 1980s still resonates today.

The Betrayers ITV, 9pm

From false identities to bogus terminal illnesses, this documentary tells the stories of people who have been duped by loved ones. David Checkley swindled more than 30 women out of hundreds of thousands of pounds, using their money to fund a luxury lifestyle. Public school-educated Alistair Stewart posed as a billionaire former Goldman Sachs banker and conned property broker Nina Siegenthaler out of \$1million, while the relatives of a dying man were targeted by

Beth Hood, who faked cancer for her own gain. Narrated by Reece Shearsmith.

THURSDAY
The Honourable Woman BBC2, 9pm

New series. As a young girl, Nessa Stein witnessed the assassination of her Zionist arms dealer father by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Now in her thirties, she is at the forefront of the Middle East peace process, but when her company awards a lucrative contract to a Palestinian businessman who is later found dead, she and her brother Ephra find themselves under the close scrutiny of Whitehall and MI6. Political thriller written and directed by The Shadow Line creator Hugo Blick, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Stephen Rea, Eve Best, Lindsay Duncan and Andrew Buchan.

FRIDAY
James Corden Does Deal or No Deal Channel 4, 8pm

For those of us on the outside, this show can look like the nuttiest thing since the invention of peanut butter. However, for those playing the game in the studio, it's like life or death as 22 contestants hope to win a fortune from the 22 boxes in front of them. Noel Edmonds is committed as ever, carrying on the Banker façade like a man yearning to win a Bafta for best dramatic performance. It's hard for anyone weaned on Swap Shop and Noel's House Party, not to love Edmonds. He has turned a hit US game show into something very British: cheaper, less glitzy than its US counterpart, and as bonkers as a Harry Hill sketch. Would we have it any other way?



James Corden Does Deal or No Deal, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

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Property

Huge extended family property features rear vegetable garden



A SUPERBLY extended six bedroomed family residence with three en-suites in Jesson Road, Walsall has potential for a seventh bedroom, with a ground floor study/bedroom having a bathroom to the side.

Also having potential for a quadruple garage plus a utility and workshop and a recently re-laid in and out driveway, it is for sale through Fraser Wood at £650,000.

The property has an imposing reception hall, a main lounge, secondary sitting room/music area with a bar area and beamed ef-

fect ceiling, a lobby, front study/downstairs bedroom, a dining room, a sun lounge, a morning room/breakfast room, kitchen, six bedrooms (three en-suite), bathroom and a separate wc. Outside the rear gardens are magnificent, having an extensive paved terrace area, mature shaped lawns, with well stocked mature shrub borders and trees, a rear vegetable garden, timber shed and potting shed.

For further information contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit the site at www.fraser-wood.co.uk



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With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, hallway, 24ft lounge, a dining room, impressive kitchen/diner, four double bedrooms, a luxury family bathroom, inner hall, separate wc, 28ft snooker/games room, brick workshop, secure parking for multiple vehicles and a garden.

All four bedrooms have laminate flooring. The bathroom includes a roll top claw foot bath and a quadrant shower cubicle. Call L&S Prestige on 01902 606595 or log on at www.prestige-estatesuk.com



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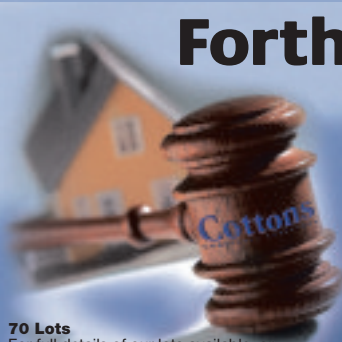
3 GLASS STREET, HANLEY,
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271 WEDNESBURY ROAD, WALSALL



149 CONGLETON ROAD, BUTT LANE,
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2A HARRISON STREET,
BLOXWICH, WALSALL



154 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL

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7:00pm Prompt

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16 Hardie Avenue, Rugeley	10.00am	10.00am
45 Bow St, Rugeley	10.30am	10.30am
7 Foster Avenue, Hednesford	11.15am	11.15am
91 Hill Street, Hednesford	11.45am	11.45am
44 & 44a High Street, Chase Town	12.30pm	12.30pm
2a Middleton Avenue, Brownhills	1.15pm	1.15pm
57 Croxdene Avenue, Bloxwich	2.15pm	2.15pm
54 New Penkridge Rd, Cannock	3.00pm	3.00pm
Land adj. 2 Rowan Rd, Cannock	By calling on site with auction catalogue to hand	

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LOT 1

**7 FOSTER
AVENUE,
HEDNESFORD**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Traditional detached house
- ◆ Standing on a generous plot
- ◆ Requiring comprehensive renovation and refurbishment
- ◆ Benefiting from some double glazing
- ◆ EPC rating 1

Guide price £85,000+



LOT 2

**16 HARDIE AVENUE,
PEAR TREE ESTATE, RUGELEY**

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ In popular residential area
- ◆ Benefiting from partial double glazing and partial gas central heating
- ◆ EPC rating 56
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000**



LOT 3

**44 & 44A
HIGH STREET,
CHASETOWN**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Ideal buy to let
- ◆ Prominently located detached building comprising ground floor shop with spacious self contained flat above
- ◆ Rear car parking
- ◆ Planning permission for conversion of shop to a two bedroom apartment (Lichfield District Council Reference 12/00073/COU)
- ◆ EPC rating 51 - Non domestic EPC band E
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £95,000**



LOT 4

**57
CROXDENE
AVENUE,
BLOXWICH**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Ideal buy to let
- ◆ EPC rating 59

GUIDE PRICE £90,000 - £100,000



LOT 5

**91 HILL STREET,
HEDNESFORD**

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- ◆ In need of comprehensive renovation/refurbishment
- ◆ EPC rating 38
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £40,000-£50,000**



LOT 6

**2A
MIDDLETON
ROAD,
BROWNHILLS**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Detached house ◆ 3 bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Standing on a good sized plot for owner occupation or may be suitable for redevelopment (subject to planning permission being obtained)
- ◆ EPC rating 59
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £160,000 - £180,000**



LOT 7

**45 BOW
STREET,
RUGELEY**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Listed building offering extensive accommodation on three floors having been more recently used as pub/club with ancillary and living accommodation on upper floors and courtyard
- ◆ Possible development opportunity
- ◆ EPC non domestic Band E
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £190,000-£225,000**



LOT 8

**BUILDING PLOT
SHOAL HILL**

**LAND ADJ. 2 ROWAN
ROAD, CANNOCK**

- ◆ Freehold With Vacant Possession
- ◆ Individual residential building plot with benefit of planning permission for erection of a detached residential bungalow
- ◆ The plot adjoins the Shoal Hill district of Cannock Chase



LOT 9

**54 NEW
PENKRIDGE
ROAD,
CANNOCK**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Detached house of character
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of improvement /refurbishment
- ◆ Located in much sought after residential area of the town
- ◆ **GUIDE PRICE £175,000-£200,000**

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3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £110,000 - £115,000



10 Brindley Avenue, Wednesfield

3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



78 King Charles Avenue, Walsall

Semi Detached Property In

Need Of Modernisation

Guide: £45,000 - £54,000



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Former Highgate Brewery &

Associated Buildings

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NEW

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- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen • Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C • Bathroom
- Master Bedroom • En-Suite
- Gardens • Garage

£675 PCM



NEW

**Bloxwich
WOODALL STREET**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen • Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C • Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

£550 PCM



**Rushall
CARTBRIDGE LANE SOUTH**

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Kitchen • Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C. • Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating

£550 PCM



**Walsall
HILLARY STREET**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Loft Bedroom • Garage

£500 PCM



**Bloxwich
MILLFIELD AVENUE**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom • Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing • Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



**Willenhall
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge/Diner • Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Bathroom • Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

£495 PCM



**Walsall
TANNERS COURT**

- Two Bed Apartment
- Lounge/Fitted kitchen
- Security entrance
- Allocated parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM



**Beechdale
BURGH WAY**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with French Doors
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

£475 PCM



**Walsall
DEERMEAD COURT**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

£450



**Walsall
LINGFIELD COURT**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Secure Gated Parking
- Allocated Parking

£450 PCM



**Bloxwich
CHURCH STREET**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Close to High Street Shops
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Shared Rear Garden

£450 PCM



**Blakenhall Heath
CHURCH WALK, PARISH COURT**

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

£450 PCM



**Walker Road
GUILD COURT**

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom • Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing • Allocated
- Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



**Willehnall
ARGVLL COURT**

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Fitted Kitchen/Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£425 PCM



**Walsall
MURDOCK WAY**

- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating
- Lounge • Dining Room • Utility • Kitchen
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£425 PCM



**Walsall
LINGFIELD COURT**

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Part Furnished
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with French Doors
- Electric Heating & Double Glazing

£425 PCM



**Walsall
KENT STREET**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen • Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



**Walsall
CAIRNS STREET**

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating
- Through Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom • Rear Garden • DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Bloxwich
HIGH STREET**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Bloxwich
ROCKINGHAM CLOSE**

- Two Bedroom Flats
- Communal Entrance
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Allocated Parking in Courtyard
- Bathroom • DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Walsall
TAME CLOSE**

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge with Balcony
- Kitchen • Shower Room
- Communal Grounds
- Communal Parking

£395 PCM



**Walsall
SLANEY ROAD**

- One Bedroom Maisonette
- Large Lounge • Kitchen • Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Cul-De-Sac Location • Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET**

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM



**Walsall
HARDEN CLOSE**

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Bathroom • Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM

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TREETOPS DR, BRACKENDALE
One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom And Bathroom. Also Having Full UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Outside There Is A Garage In Separate Block.

NEW INSTRUCTION

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PRESTWOOD AVE, W FIELD
Three Bed Traditional Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, 24ft Through Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. Outside Is Off Road Parking And An Enclosed Rear Garden.

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FOR SALE



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One Bedroom End Townhouse Located On Hadley Heath Estate Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Garden. Ideal First Time Buy/ MUST VIEW.

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£89,995



TEMPLE RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C And Family Bathroom. Outside Is A Garden To The Rear And A Paved Area To The Front.

£89,995



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Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom And Three Bedrooms. Off Road Parking To The Front And Garden To The Rear.

£100,000



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Well Presented Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Majority C/ Heating & Rear Garden.

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BENTON CL, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of 20ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Lobby With Both W.C And Storage Cupboard, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. Also Benefits From UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating.

£104,995



LIME AVE, BENTLEY
Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House Having Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Shower Room, Separate W.C, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Off Road Parking And Rear Garden.

£109,995



WALKERS FOLD, SHORT HEATH
Two Bed Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£109,995



THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden.

£110,000



BENTON CL, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bedroom Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, 20ft Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, 20ft Lounge, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom And Separate W.C, Driveway Parking And Rear Garden.

£119,995



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SOLD IN JUST 10 DAYS!
SOLD IN JUST 10 DAYS!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

£120,000



CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Located On The Popular Hayes Estate. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms And Bathroom. Also With Garage And Off Road Parking.

£124,995



LOMBARDY GDN, SHORT HEATH
Superbly Presented Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property. Comprising Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Two Bedrooms & Bathroom. Gardens To Both The Front And Rear. Detached Garage And Driveway. MUST VIEW!

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£130,000



SANDRINGHAM AVE, W HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Spacious Through Lounge/ Diner, Extended Kitchen, Refitted Family Bathroom, Hardwood D/ Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.

£134,995



WHITEWOOD GLADE, W HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen And With Fitted Wardrobes. Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Gardens To Front And Rear, Driveway Parking And Detached Garage.

£137,500



BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD
Modern Three Bedroom End Town House Comprising Of Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite, Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Off Road Parking. Viewing Recommended!

£139,995



RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached Adapted To Allow For Disabled Living. Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room And Adjoining Wet Room And Family Bathroom. Also With Off Road Parking & Garage.

£140,000



CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Four Bedroom Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Area, Utility, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom Four, Three First Floor Bedrooms And A Modern Family Bathroom.

£159,995



PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL
Superbly Presented Four Bedroom Town House Comprising Of Lounge, Ground Floor W.C, Sitting Room, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Four Bedrooms, En-suite Shower Room To Master Bed And Family Bathroom. MUST VIEW

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£159,995



BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL
Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge Being Open Plan Into Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room, Four/Five Bedrooms And Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Block Paved Driveway.

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W-TON RD WEST, BENTLEY
Well Presented Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Lounge, Detached Property Having Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, "P" Shaped Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility To The First Floor, Bathroom With Separate Steam Shower, Bedroom Four To The Second Floor, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.

£169,995



HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM
Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom, Master Bathroom, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995



LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**WALSALL
DICKINSON DRIVE**

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED END TERRACED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE, KITCHEN DINER, DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
- FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£109,950 OFFERS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED!



**BLOXWICH
MULBERRY ROAD**

- SUPERBLY APPOINTED THREE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE IN POPULAR DUDLEY FIELDS AREA
- SPACIOUS BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- LARGE CONSERVATORY
- EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL!!

£120,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF

MANAGERS CHOICE



**BLOXWICH
BROAD LANE**

- SUPERB THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN POPULAR BROAD LANE LOCATION
- EXCELLENT CONSERVATORY
- 17FT FITTED DINING KITCHEN
- LOVELY ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL!!

£120,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF

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- SHELFIELD, WALSALL
HARRINGWORTH COURT, LICHFIELD ROAD**
- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED FIRST FLOOR APPOINTMENT
 - IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR INVESTMENT
 - ONE BEDROOM
 - ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE.
 - INTERCOM SECURITY ENTRANCE, NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£64,950 OFFERS



- BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL
BELL TOWER CLOSE**
- PLEASANT END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY SITUATED ON MODERN DEVELOPMENT CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
 - THREE BEDROOMS
 - 15FT REAR LOUNGE WITH FRENCH DOORS

£140,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF



- BLOXWICH
STONEY LANE**
- LOVELY EXTENDED CHARACTER TRADITIONAL STYLE SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN POPULAR LOCATION
 - THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
 - ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN

£158,000



- BEECHDALE, WALSALL
KELVIN ROAD**
- TWO BEDROOM END TOWN HOUSE ON CORNER PLOT WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN
 - IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
 - OFF ROAD PARKING
 - POTENTIAL TO EXTEND SUBJECT TO RELEVANT PLANNING PERMISSION.

£83,000



- WALSALL
COALPOOL LANE**
- PLEASANT THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED IN SMALL SERVICE ROAD OFF COALPOOL LANE
 - DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
 - GENEROUS REAR GARDEN
 - BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

£96,950 OFFERS



- LEAMORE, WALSALL
BEATRICE STREET**
- TRADITIONAL STYLE THREE BEDROOM SEMI IN CONVENIENT LOCATION OFF BLOXWICH ROAD
 - TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
 - FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM

£99,950 OFFERS



- WALSALL
WESTBOURNE STREET**
- SUPERBLY APPOINTED AND CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, EXTENDED VICTORIAN STYLE PROPERTY CONVENIENT TO WALSALL TOWN CENTRE
 - FOUR BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
 - SUPERB BRAND NEW FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
 - PLEASANT REAR GARDEN
 - NO CHAIN, MUST BE VIEWED INTERNALLY!!

£182,500 OFFERS



- BLOXWICH
BOOTH STREET**
- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY CLOSE TO BLOXWICH TOWN
 - THREE BEDROOMS, DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
 - SUPERB FAMILY BATHROOM
 - OFF ROAD PARKING, INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

£94,995 OFFERS

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



LEAMORE, WALSALL
BLAKENALL LANE

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED EXTENDED FAMILY HOME
- THREE BEDROOM MID TOWN HOUSE
- FAMILY BATHROOM & DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OPEN PLAN THROUGH LOUNGE DINER
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN, GATED DRIVEWAY
- VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£112,500 OFFERS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED!



NEW INVENTION
LICHFIELD ROAD

- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY SET BEHIND DEEP FRONTAGE ALONG POPULAR LICHFIELD ROAD
- EXTENDED LOUNGE
- GARAGE AND AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING
- PLEASANT GARDEN TO THE REAR
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, VIEW VIA AGENT!

£160,000 OFFERS

MANAGERS CHOICE



LEAMORE, WALSALL
EAGLEWORKS DRIVE

- WELL PRESENTED MODERN STYLE GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTRANCE
- TWO BEDROOMS
- OPEN PLAN LIVING SPACE & KITCHEN
- GATED ALLOCATED PARKING
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE!

£51,000 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP

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BLOXWICH
CROXDENE AVENUE

- DETACHED PROPERTY WITH THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR BLOXWICH RAILWAY STATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- GENEROUS REAR GARDEN

£149,950 OFFERS



BEECHDALE, WALSALL
HADLEY WAY

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY WITH GARAGE TO THE REAR
- THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN, INTERNAL VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£104,950 OFFERS



NEWTOWN
STAFFORD ROAD

- PLEASANT THREE BEDROOM VICTORIAN STYLE TERRACE, WHICH ENJOYS LOVELY VIEWS OVER LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE TO THE REAR
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

£124,950 OFFERS



WALSALL
WATER REED GROVE

- WELL APPOINTED TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT WITH EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM LOCATED IN PURPOSE BUILT DEVELOPMENT,
- ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING
- 16FT LOUNGE WITH JULIET BALCONY, NO UPWARD CHAIN, VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£80,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF



LEAMORE, WALSALL
HARDEN ROAD

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY THOUGHT IDEAL FOR THE YOUNG FAMILY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£115,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF



BLOXWICH
HARRISON STREET

- SUPERBLY APPOINTED END TERRACED FAMILY HOME SITUATED CLOSE TO BLOXWICH HIGH STREET
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, IMPRESSIVE BATHROOM
- INTERNAL VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£129,950 OFFERS



PELSALL
PLANT WAY

- IMPROVED END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY IN CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- THREE BEDROOMS
- RE-FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- REAR GARDENS

£114,950 OFFERS



BLOXWICH
SIMMONDS ROAD

- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED IN POPULAR LOCATION OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN,
- THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING

£139,950 OFFERS

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FEATURED PROPERTY



**REID AVENUE
SHORT HEATH**

- Superb modern dormer bungalow
- Corner plot location
- Three double bedrooms
- Ground floor bathroom
- Large lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage
- Driveway
- Corner gardens

£153,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**HONEYBOURNE WAY
WILLENHALL**

- Modern Detached Property
- Popular Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Driveway
- Corner Plot Gardens

£157,000

OPEN DAY SUN 6TH JULY 12.30 - 2.30PM



**HOUGH WAY
ESSINGTON**

- OPEN DAY SUNDAY 6TH JULY 12.30PM - 2.30PM
- First Floor Apartment
- Impressively Appointed
- Premier Cul-De-Sac Location
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space
- No Chain

OFFERS OVER £110,000

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**JAMES STREET
THE MANOR, WILLENHALL**

- Spacious 1930's Semi Detached • Prominent Corner Position
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen • Utility
- Large Gardens • Garage • Driveway
- No chain

£150,000



**TENBURY CLOSE
BENTLEY**

- Superb Modern Style Semi Detached • Desirable Cul De Sac
- Spacious Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen • Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room • Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Driveway • Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens
- Planning Permission for Two Storey Side Extension

£137,500



**TILDESLEY DRIVE
WILLENHALL**

- Extended End Terrace Property • No Chain
- Spacious Through Lounge • Extended Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Shower Room with Separate WC
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Very Large Rear Gardens

£115,000



**CEDAR PARK ROAD
SNEYD PARK**

- Mid Terrace Property with No Upward Chain
- Hall • Spacious Lounge • Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Bathroom
- Garage • Rear Gardens

£107,950



**LABURNUM GROVE
BENTLEY**

- Renovated Mid Terrace Property • No Chain
- Through Lounge/ Dining Room • Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom & Separate WC
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway • Rear Gardens

£106,000



**WINDSOR WALK
DARLASTON**

- Extended well presented modern style end terrace
- Lounge • Dining Room • Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted bathroom • Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating • Double glazing
- Rear garden • Two Allocated Parking Spaces

£105,000



**SQUIRES GROVE
NEW INVENTION**

- Minimum of 40% shared ownership available
- Well presented second floor flat
- Two bedrooms • Large lounge with dining area
- Fitted kitchen • En-suite • Bathroom • Double glazing
- Allocated parking space • No chain

£95,000 FOR 100% OWNERSHIP



**BILSTON LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Period Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Garage & Gardens to Rear • No Chain

£80,000

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WILLENHALL GIPSY LANE

- Restored large Edwardian semi detached villa
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen & utility
- Bathroom & guest wc
- Off road parking

NOW £450 PCM



WEDNESFIELD PARRY ROAD

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Modern kitchen
- Two reception rooms
- Utility room
- Family bathroom & separate toilet
- Off road parking
- Enclosed rear

£575.00 PCM

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BLOXWICH BOOTH STREET

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- 18ft Dining kitchen including oven & hob
- UPVC D/glazed conservatory
- UPVC D/ glazed windows

£550.00 PCM



WALSALL COALPOOL LANE

- Spacious Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge
- Gas CH
- UPVC D/ Glazing
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Gardens

£550 PCM



WEDNESFIELD LICHFIELD ROAD

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- c/heating & d/glazing
- Bathroom
- Garage & Off road parking
- Rear garden

£550 PCM



WEST BROMWICH GREETS GREEN ROAD

- Attractive modernised mid terraced
- Two bedrooms
- Central heating
- D/ glazing
- Modern kitchen & bathroom
- Newly fitted carpets
- Lounge
- Sitting room
- Yard

£475.00 PCM



BILSTON ST CHADS ROAD

- Traditional style detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Dining kitchen
- Shower room
- C/heating & d/glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking for one car

£500 PCM



WALSALL WREXHAM AVENUE

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Gas c/heating & double glazing
- Three bedrooms
- Enclosed rear garden

£475.00 PCM



BLOXWICH FIELD ROAD

- Pleasantly Appointed End Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Gas CH
- UPVC D/ Glazing

£500 PCM



WILLENHALL SANDBEDS

- Well presented mid terraced property
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Ground floor bathroom
- Off road parking to rear

£475 PCM



WILLENHALL SANDBEDS ROAD

- APPLICATION MADE, SIMILAR REQUIRED!!
- Beautifully presented end town house
- Three bedrooms
- Dining kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Off Road Parking

£575 PCM

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ST AUSTELL ROAD, PARK HALL

- Three Bed Detached Bungalow
- Lounge/ Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen (some appliances)
- Utility Room & Shower Room
- Conservatory & Double Garage
- DG, GCH & Gardens

£950pcm - plus fees



GORSEY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

- Three Bed Semi- Detached
- Breakfast Kitchen/ Family Room
- Front Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway & Gardens
- GCH & UPVC DG

£595pcm - plus fees



WOODRUFF WAY, WALSALL

- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Hall, Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Garage

£595pcm - plus fees



WARDLES LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

- Newly Refurbished
- Second Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge With Balcony Off
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

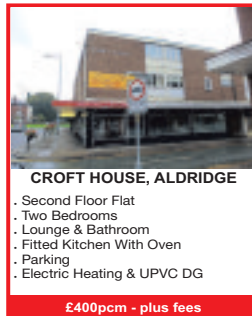
£450pcm - plus fees



SCHOOL LOFTS, WALSALL

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge/Kitchen Area
- Shower Room
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking

£425pcm - plus fees



CROFT HOUSE, ALDRIDGE

- Second Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen With Oven
- Parking
- Electric Heating & UPVC DG

£400pcm - plus fees



REEDSWOOD GARDENS, WALSALL

- Second Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Utility, Bathroom
- Separate wc
- Parking Space

£400pcm - plus fees



GOMER STREET, WILLENHALL

- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Reception Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Gas Central Heating

£310pcm - plus fees



VICTORIA TERRACE, WALSALL

- Ground Floor Studio Flat
- Lounge / Bedroom
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Storage Heaters
- New Carpets & Vinyl
- No Parking

£295pcm - plus fees



BRADFORD LANE, WALSALL

- Small Detached Property
- Open Plan Living Room / Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Shower Room, Storage Heaters
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Enclosed Rear Yard

£295pcm - plus fees

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Drivetime

Honda's stylish creation

By Bob Hickman

I really would like to be a fly on the wall in the design studios of the motorcycle manufacturers.

We have seen it in the car industry with the arrival of MPVs, SUVs and micro cars, and those clever boffins in the motorcycling industry must have sat one morning and thought what can we conjure up.

Let's take one of Hondas best-selling motor bikes, the Pan European or the ST1300, and chop the front fairing off, retune the engine, lower the seat, move the foot rests forward and give it huge handle bars, and call it a CTX Tourer. For the uninitiated, CTX stands for Comfort, Technology and Experience.

When you look at this new machine from Honda it is very difficult to decide where it should fit. It is a blend of cruiser style, with everyday practicality. I suggest this is yet another new type of machine.

The water-cooled V4 power unit is well proven in the brilliant Pan European. The 1261cc engine has had a power reduction and a makeover, suffice to say this has made it more tractable and given the machine missile-like acceleration and performance defying the size of the machine.

The CTX retains a five-speed, shaft-drive transmission, and it is typical Honda, you enter a gear with a clunk.

Someone at Honda has worked the CTX ergonomics perfectly. As a rider you are positioned exactly where you would like to be, your knees at a 90 degrees; your arms extend comfortably to reach

the huge handlebars and the seat is low at 29 inches, which enables even those vertically challenged to get flat feet on the ground. The deeply sculptured saddle is well shaped and sufficiently comfortable.

Initially, I thought the tiny windscreen at the front, on the half fairing, was a gimmick. But in one horrendous storm I encountered, it did actually work. So, once again, someone within Honda's department has also worked magic with the aerodynamics.

Visually the CTX is quite stunning, the four chrome exhaust pipes meandering from the engine really are an item of motorcycle beauty, giving a sense of style. Add to this the low seat height, which enables the centre of gravity to be reduced, and this helps the handling of the machine.

Compact

The CTX does have a lot of bells and whistles. The technology aspect includes huge tyres, both front and rear; large, 45mm inverted front forks; and the rear shock absorbers are adjustable. In addition, an aluminium swinging arm has been incorporated. The rider's eye view is of a compact easily understandable instrument panel.

The kind people at Honda have included a twin-speaker stereo system, compatible with a smartphone and Bluetooth.

I like the fact that, as I am getting older and want creature comforts, Honda has incorporated heated handle bar grips in addition to the safety features of ABS and traction control system. The headlights, tail lights and indicators are of the LED type, ensuring not only can you see, but you can be seen as well.

The CTX is a bike for those who want to be a little different and enjoy



'The CTX retains a five-speed, shaft-drive transmission, and it is typical Honda, you enter a gear with a clunk'

covering huge mileages in comfort.

Luggage carrying will not be a problem, due to the dual panniers which are fixed and into which full face helmets can easily be stored.

The riding dynamics of the CTX are of a comfortable, friendly companion. The riding dynamics of the CTX are of a comfortable, friendly companion.

There was no top-end astronomic speed factor. Changes made by the manufacturer to the V4 engine have resulted in a huge amount of low-down torque and the en-

gine easily pulls from a mere 2,000 revs in top gear. But drop down a few cogs and the CTX is quite a rapid performer. I am saddened that the wonderfully sculptured exhaust was extremely muted. Oh for a Harley Davidson screaming eagle exhaust.

I found the steering to be neutral, the suspension more than adequate.

The CTX will definitely win a few friends, whether it will ever replace the Pan European, I have my doubts. But on looks alone, it is worth a trip to the dealer.

The Honda CTX Tourer costs £14,999.

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Drop-top from Audi is a breath of fresh air

By Edward Parker

With the sun finally thinking about showing its face, can Audi's drop-top A3 emulate its tin-top cousin when it comes to winning the hearts, minds and chequebooks of prospective buyers?

That's the plan over the coming months, to see if the A3 Cabriolet can deliver on the important elements of compact hatch motoring – easy to drive and park, prove frugal at the pumps – while adding a ray of sunshine to the ownership experience once the roof is down.

The omens are promising: a white car with a black fabric roof couldn't offer a more contrasting appearance if it tried. If I can't get into the 'summer groove' with this pearly bright combination, there's no hope for my ambitions as a sun worshipper.

Being a Sport specification A3, it boasts a slightly lower ride height and firmer suspension set-up than the lower spec SE. I've been here before with a regular A3 hatch and this combination is better than it sounds. That the car's optional 18in wheels (default is 17in) also don't appear to hamper the ride quality is proof that Audi has come along way in recent years when it comes to balancing a sporty ride with day-to-day comfort.

Lift the car's fabric lid and, with a few exceptions, this car's like the regular three-door A3 so forgive the whistle-stop tour in favour of focusing on said fabric lid.

Insulation

One particular benefit of Sport spec ownership is a three-layer roof boasting a greater level of insulation over the standard item on lesser models. Certainly, with the roof up the cabin ambience is suitably refined, although nothing short of a metal folding roof will come close to a genuine tin-top experience, whatever the car.

Of greater importance is the usability angle, and it doesn't get any easier than pressing the roof switch for 17 seconds and watching the top disappear into a dedicated space above the car's boot. That you can raise and lower the roof at up to 31mph is a welcome bonus, although installing the (optional) wind deflector does render the rear seats out of bounds. Rear leg space is modest at best though, so it's no great loss.

On a more positive refinement note, engine choice is Audi's new 1.4-litre petrol unit complete with 'Cylinder on Demand' mode. This 140 horsepower unit is pleasingly quiet and delivers ample urge so long as expectations are sensible. However, to boost economy and reduce emissions, on a light throttle two of the four cylinders will shut down.

If it wasn't for the trip computer display alerting you to this 'twin-pot' running mode you'd struggle to notice, although those with keen senses will detect a slightly off-beat engine resonance.

And it's no gimmick; the instant fuel economy readout often jumps to 100-plus mpg around town, with the result that early running has seen close to 50mpg on a 30-minute mixed-road run.

If that's not hi-tech enough to impress, I've also got Audi's hi-spec optional infotainment system to play with.

This car summed up in a single word: Summery.

TESTED

Model: Audi A3 Cabriolet 1.4 TFSI Sport with CoD, from £27,015 on the road. Price as tested £32,065

Engine: 1.4-litre petrol unit developing 140bhp
Transmission: Six-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the front wheels

Performance: Maximum speed 135mph, 0-62mph 9.1 seconds

Economy: 56.5mpg

CO2 Rating: 114g/km

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2011/11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE 5 Door MPV, Pepper Dust, 22000 miles.....**£8299**

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New additions to the park include the opportunity to hand-feed the giraffes and the chance to see the world's fastest land animal, the cheetah.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Other popular attractions within Longleat include the Jungle Cruise, that sails across the lake accompanied by the resident Californian sea lions towards the new Gorilla Island and Jungle Express, the Longleat railway that runs alongside the lake.

A visit is also made to Bath. This beautiful georgian city offers a wealth of history to explore, the most famous attraction being the Roman Baths, plus plenty of bars, restaurants and shops to browse around including Walcot Street, a centre for talented artisan craftspeople.

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Two days departing Aug 9 and Sept 27



PRICE FROM

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Windsor Castle, Tower of London and Cutty Sark

Four days departing Aug 15 and Sept 19



PRICE FROM

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Two days departing September 6



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Bond in Motion Exhibition at the London Film Museum

Two days departing October 4



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- Overnight half-board accommodation
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Three days departing November 14



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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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vets

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BLACK LABRADOR Puppies, 2 boys, 1 girl left. Parents can be seen. KC reg ready now. Boys £350, Girl £400. 07974 810544.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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businesses for sale

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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Move in Today!!
Studios from £30pw!
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Includes Most Bills
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7

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A fully experienced estimator is sought to work alongside our existing professional team of estimators. The applicant should have full knowledge of the industry, have the ability to read engineers, architects and construction drawings, possess good communication skills and able to provide fully detailed competitive quotations

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Key Responsibilities and Skills

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- Creative and articulate.
- Ability to identify the best advertising opportunities to enhance a customer's response.

Minimum Experience

A proven track record in sales, preferably in the media industry. A real desire to succeed.

Once fully qualified, you can expect to earn O.T.E circa £30,000 p.a and benefits include a company car for field sales representatives, side by side coaching on site in our academy and excellent career progression for the right candidates.

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Midland News Association
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Or apply by email to:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk
Closing date: Friday July 4th 2014.



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07815 746123

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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PEUGEOT 1.4 Sport, 07 reg, 48k miles, very good condition, tax, MoT, lady owner, £3,350 ono. 07356 683698

REANULT MEGANE Dynamique 1.9 DCI TD, 2004, 5dr, alloys, 92k, sh, immaculate, MoT May 2015, £1,285 ono. 07575 709081

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2005, 78,943 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, low MoT, central locking, diesel, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, SRI. £3,550. 07850 546262.

VAUXHALL ASTRA automatic, 03, 1.6 club, 75k miles, SH, new MoT and taxed till end Feb '15, excellent condition, £1,650, 07577 245359.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2008(08), 58,000 miles, 5 door, manual, silver, abs, electric windows, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, tax, alloys, aux. Very good condition. £3,250. 07852 867544.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN XSARA 1.6LX auto, 2002, taxed, full MoT, low miles, stereo, electronics, extras, very nice condition, £500, 07434 820045

FORD FIESTA 1.25 GHIA, 1999, 67k, silver, 5 door, e/w, pas, a/c, good runner, new exhaust, allrite just easy fixed, £550 ono. 01384 404281

MITSUBISHI SPACESTAR, 51 reg, super, tax, MoT, reasonable condition, £700. Telephone 01922 867532.

PEUGEOT 206 cc Red, 2006 reg., needs some work, selling for spares or runner, £1,000, 01922 701091 / 07766 368502.

RENAULT CLIO, 2004, 85,600 miles, 3 door, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, good condition, £1,500, 07859 813109.

ROVER 25, 2004, 53,000 miles, silver, long MoT, alloy, recently serviced, good runner, £1,350 ono. 01384 253025.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

VOLKSWAGEN POLO CL diesel, 1998, taxed, MoT, sand 2015, 60 plus mpg, cd, alloys, tilt and PAS, nice for year, £650, 07570 466779.

cars under £1500

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Boxers lining up for Town Hall bout

FIGHTERS have been matched for when professional boxing returns to Walsall Town Hall next month for the third time this year, writes Craig Birch.

Tipton's Lee Glover tops the bill with the British Masters feather-weight title on the line, Swindon's Joe Beeden in the other corner.

They go toe-to-toe on Friday July 11, when they hit the airwaves on BBC WM's DAB Digital Service and online.

Two 10-round bouts headline the card, the other featuring skilful British Bronze Masters light welterweight champion Luke Paddock.

The stylist from Bloxwich will step through the ropes with Portsmouth's Lewis O'Mara, who has never been stopped in four outings.

'The Tipton Slasher' pushed English champion Jon Kays close before a narrow points defeat in March, only his second bout in two years.

Now the 27-year-old is looking to get back up to speed against the game Beeden, who gave Wolverhampton's Des Bowater a test last year.

Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 ringside, are available to buy from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

Seconds in victory at home

**Cannock 2nds 103-1
Wolverhampton 4ths 102**

After winning the toss Cannock elected to field and after a good start Wolverhampton were well placed at 92-2 before a spell of 7-1 by Dan Wood saw the innings close at just 102 all out.

In reply Cannock made short work of chasing down the winning target in just 20 overs with Adam Evans scoring 55no and Mike Chadderton 26 no.

**Cannock 3rds 132-8
Coseley 2nds 127
Cannock Won by two wickets**

Cannock recorded their second win of the season over high flying Coseley in a low scoring game at Chase Park. Winning the toss and fielding Cannock took regular wickets and, despite a run rate of four per over, Coseley were all out for 127 after just 35 overs with Al Leech taking 3-21, Alex Rowe 2-24 and Paul Martin wrapping things up with 2-0 from five balls.

Skipper gets Wolves role

SHROPSHIRE cricket captain Anthony Parker has been appointed as deputy head groundsman at Wolves.

The county skipper is likely to relinquish the captaincy after filling Richard Oliver's boots temporarily to take up duties in Wolverhampton.

The wicketkeeper will tend to the grounds at Molineux and their Compton training base during the campaign.

The Wolves players will be returning for pre-season training this week, where they will be building up for the first games in the Championship league.

Sisters power into national finals

TWO sisters from near Wolverhampton will fly the flag for the region at a national powerboating final.

South Staffordshire Sailing Club's (SSSC) Kamila Czartolomna, aged 13, and nine-year-old sister, Aga, won their respective age-groups at the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship Regional Final at Draycote Water Sailing Club recently.

The siblings will now go head-to-head against the 13 other regional age-group champions at the Honda RYA Youth RIB national grand final at the PSP Southampton Boat Show on Sunday 14 September following their regional success in the 13-16 and 8-12 age groups respectively.

This is the third successive year that Kamila has qualified for the national final, but is the first time in the older age-group. Last year she finished a hugely impressive

Sailing

second overall in the 8-12 age-group at the Southampton showdown.

Aga, meanwhile, was making her Honda RYA Youth RIB debut this year and proved that calm under pressure runs in the family by clinching victory.

Both girls first got the opportunity to powerboat through SSSC, where they have been members for five years.

Now in its 13th year, the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship is Britain's leading programme introducing kids to powerboats and training them to be safe, proficient drivers and excellent boat handlers.

Rigid inflatable boats (Rib) are light, manoeuvrable craft and the boats driven in the

Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship can reach 25mph. The youngsters compete in time trials around sets of marks.

The stop-start obstacle proved a stumbling block for Kamila on her first run, as she picked up 15 penalty points.

But, despite the pressure being on, the Perton Middle School youngster recovered brilliantly to nail a clean second run in what proved to be a winning 1m12s.

Sandown First School pupil Aga also learned from her mistakes in her first run to deliver an error-free, victorious second in 2m 12s.

Kamila said: "I'm so happy and excited to have qualified for the national final again. I was fifth in 2012, and second in 2013, so I've done better and better. Now I really want to win!"

Aga added: "I feel super happy and nerv-

ous at the same time about going to the Southampton national final but I will be trying to do my best."

Martin Warburton, SSSC Commodore, said: "Congratulations to Kamila and Aga, both represented South Staffs very well.

"To have two competitors from the same club in the national final is quite an achievement.

"Thanks must go to Steve Troke and Robin Harper for all their time encouraging and training our youngsters."

Stephen Morris, Head of Power Equipment for Honda (UK), said: "We are delighted to continue our long and successful partnership with the RYA in supporting the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship."

For more information about the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship visit www.rya.org.uk/go/hondayouthrib

Charm offensive by Wolves just the ticket

WOLVES have staged a successful charm offensive to help reach their 14,500 target for season tickets.

Around 250 fans of those invited attended a 'meet and greet' session with some of the club's top brass in the Stan Cullis Stand's WV1 Bar last week.

The relaxed session, which was held over four hours to allow people to call in on their way home from work, featured a video presentation of the £7m Compton training ground expansion and the chance to talk with, among others, chief executive Jez Moxey and head of football development Kevin Thelwell.

As a result of the promotion, where fans could also have a pint and watch the World Cup as well as have their picture taken with the League One trophy and be shown around Molineux, numerous fans signed up for season tickets, and sales are now approaching 13,000.

Head of media Matt Grayson said: "We have this goal of 14,500 season ticket holders for next season and we're getting close to the 13,000 figure now, and this was part of our drive to get as many fans as possible to attend every home game at Molineux.

"We invited some supporters we know from our database had attended eight or more games last season but weren't season ticket holders.

"First and foremost it was an opportunity for them to come here in a relaxed environment and meet senior staff such as Jez.

"We invited them to have the chance to look at the seating plan and have a chat with people such as Jez, Kevin, Richard Skirrow (secretary) and Lynne O'Reardon (ticketing manager) and over 250 of them

Football

attended. We held it from 5-9pm so people could drop in whenever it was convenient and they could have a drink, have a look around Molineux and we opened the museum as well.

"We were available to discuss seating arrangements and talk about the club and football in general.

"It was all about engaging with the fans face to face and talking with them to see how they feel about the club and how we can fit their needs.

"We have lots of plans to try to encourage more season ticket holders and we want to treat supporters like individuals.

"Sometimes it's easier to chat through the various options face to face rather than to just send marketing material through the post.

"And it was nice to see a few families involved too.

"By chatting to us, they could see which is the best ticketing option for them," he added.

"They can buy a season ticket for £370 behind the goal, and if they do that then it's usually more beneficial to them rather than pay for eight home games, and they can have the benefit of free membership to enjoy as well," explained Mr Grayson

Paul makes a splash in open water contest



Paul Bates from Walsall who was runner-up in The Great North Swim

A SWIMMER from Walsall joined 10,000 others for one of the biggest open water events in Europe.

Perry Beeches swimmer Paul Bates joined his fellow athletes at the UK's and Europe biggest open water swimming event The Great North Swim.

The event took place at one of the

most iconic open water venues in country, Lake Windermere.

The Great North Swim event runs over three days, this year it was June 13-15. There were several events covering a variety of distances.

The half mile and one mile events were the most popular followed by the two mile and five kilometre

swims for the more adventurous.

Bates took part in the two-mile race and managed a time of 44m 35s which put him as runner-up in the 45-49 age group and 14th place overall out of more than 1,400 competitors. The Beeches swimmer's next open water race is the big Cotswold four-mile swim.

We will get the right men – Holden

DEFENDER Dean Holden has expressed confidence that Walsall's new arrivals will be the right men for the club.

Manager Dean Smith made his second signing of the summer over the weekend when experienced defender James O'Connor penned a one-year deal.

And the Saddlers boss remains hopeful of completing at least one more deal in the coming days.

Walsall had already snapped up highly-rated young keeper Craig MacGillivray before landing O'Connor, who has spent the past four seasons in the Championship with Derby County.

Smith has a significant rebuild on hand after opting to release last season's top scorer Craig Westcarr and then losing influential skipper Andy Butler.

But veteran defender Holden, who has signed as a player-coach for next term, believes the manager and his assistant Richard O'Kelly will bring in players who are right for the club – both in quality and character.

"The ones who come in will be the right ones for Walsall," he said.

"They will be team players.

There are no prima donnas, no superstars," insisted Holden.

Dreams of Grand Prix are ended

BIRMINGHAM duo Danny King and Nico Covatti both saw their Grand Prix dreams ended for another year.

The pair were both in action in Gorican having advanced to the semi-finals of the qualification process, yet both failed to book a spot in the Grand Prix Challenge.

Selco Brummies skipper King put in a solid showing with only one last place, yet he failed to record a race win as he ended with five points.

Covatti scored five points. **Hans Andersen 12, Linus Sundstrom 11 (after run-off), Janusz Kolodziej 11, Maciej Janowski 10, Thomas H. Jonasson 10, Peter Kildebrand 9, Matej Zagar 9, Martin Smolinski 8 (after run-off), Jurica Pavlic 8, Troy Batchelor 7, Mikkel Michelsen 6, Josef Franc 6, Nicolas Covatti 5, Daniel King 5, Ricky Wells 2, Craig Cook 1, Tomas Suchanek (res) 0. (Top seven riders qualify for Grand Prix).**

Office experts sponsor shirts

OFFICE technology specialists Altdigital will be sponsoring Wolves' shirts for the first Club Legends Cup at the LG Arena on Saturday July 12.

The indoor football tournament will feature former legends from Midlands football teaming up to raise money for Birmingham charity Cure Leukaemia.

Wolves legend Steve Bull will take charge of the likes of Matt Murray, Jody Craddock and Ade Akinbiyi.

For more information on the Club Legends Cup go to www.clublegendscup.co.uk

The exact line-ups are still subject to change due to other commitments.

Riders suffer first defeat on home patch

MISFIRING Wolverhampton slumped to their first home defeat of the season at the hands of table-toppers King's Lynn.

A spectacular performance from Tai Woffinden was not enough to prevent his team from slipping to a 53-37 loss on a disappointing night.

The world champion was in inspired form fresh off the back of his British Final win last week, storming to four race wins from his five outings.

Yet he received minimal support from the remainder of the side, as Peter Adams' men were simply outclassed by a rampant King's Lynn.

Said Woffinden: "It was a tough night for us – we should have really won being at home but that's just the way it goes sometimes. I don't think all the boys were scor-

ing the points they needed to, and against a strong side like King's Lynn that's what happens.

"It would have been nice to get the win as it would have put us third in the table, but there isn't anything we can do about it now.

"We've just got to put it behind us, put it down to a bad night and just look to move on as quickly as possible. "There is still a long way to go and a lot of points up for grabs, so we'll just have to make up for it elsewhere and try to make the play-offs.

"From a personal point of view I had a good night – I was on a new engine which was really fast so things are looking up for me in the Elite League.

"As a team we need to try and put a string of results together and hopefully I can help us do that."

Wolves fought hard early on, with two wins for Woffinden backed up by impressive victories for Ricky Wells and Ty Proctor to give them a two point lead after five heats.

However, the same Proctor-Wells partnership conceded two 5-1s in quick succession to see the hosts fall six behind.

A classy win for Woffinden in heat ten moved them back within four and set up a nervy finale. But Wolves collapsed late on – conceding three consecutive 5-1s to leave them in disarray.

Woffinden did claim a classy win in heat 15 to help limit the damage, but it was too little too late as his side slipped to defeat.

Ty Proctor and Ricky Wells both faded after bright starts, whilst Swede Jacob Thorssell proved solid yet unspectacular. Meanwhile, Polish hotshot Piotr Pawlicki

experienced a rare off night having previously been in blistering form.

He did push Stars No.1 Niels-Kristian Iversen hard in perhaps the race of the night before being forced to settle for second place in heat 11. But he also seized an engine in his second ride and eventually managed only three points leaving Woffinden short of support from the other heat-leader berths.

Wolverhampton: Tai Woffinden 13, Ricky Wells 6+1, Jacob Thorssell 6, Ty Proctor 4, Piotr Pawlicki 3, Tom Perry 3, Joe Jacobs 2+1.

King's Lynn: Lewis Blackbird 12+2, Niels-Kristian Iversen 10+1, Rory Schlein 10+1, Max Fricke 8+2, Robert Lambert 6+1, Kenneth Bjerre 5+1, Lewis Rose 2+1.

SPORT

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Fans snapping up
places at Molineux
Page 51Splashing out
Paul makes his mark
in open water race
Page 51

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Youthful
signings
to boost
Saddlers

THE sums may not be mind-blowing but the signings of Craig MacGillivray and Tom Bradshaw are of some significance for Walsall, writes Matt Maher.

For the first time since they paid £4,000 to Chippenham Town for striker James Constable back in 2006, the Saddlers have stumped up fees, be it under the guise of compensation, to secure the deals. And they've now done it twice in the space of a fortnight.

MacGillivray, aged 21, needed to be prised away from Harrogate Town after having agreed to remain with the Conference North club. Now striker Bradshaw, the same age, has been obtained despite the best efforts of Shrewsbury Town to keep him.

New Shrews boss Micky Mellon was keen for the former Wales under-21 international to form the focal point of his attack next season and the Shropshire club offered him a significantly improved deal.

But the pull of playing League One football and the chance to advance proved too much. The Saddlers boss will be confident of improving Bradshaw's game. Both parties will also benefit from a full pre-season of work together and the length of the contract – two years – should also not be ignored.

US pair eye
up the Villa

A VILLA buy-out is back on the cards amid news that two more American billionaires have discussed the project with Randy Lerner.

The US financiers Josh Harris and David Blitzler have a history in buying out and then reviving "distressed" sports businesses, and are now reckoned to be looking at a takeover of Villa.

They are the latest in a growing number of names being linked to the club since Randy Lerner formally declared his intention to sell.

The news will be treated with caution by Villa fans who have now grown accustomed to hearing the club linked with fanciful investment projects. But Harris and Blitzler are business contacts of Lerner and reports from the States are adamant an investment has been discussed.

Foster first Baggie in World Cup side since Astle

BEN FOSTER has become the first Albion player since Jeff Astle in 1970 to play for England in a World Cup.

The Baggies keeper was named as one of nine changes made by boss Roy Hodgson in the dead rubber against Costa Rica in Belo Horizonte before heading home.

Foster, who is 31 and only came out of international retirement in February 2013, replaces first choice Joe Hart to become the first Baggies player to represent England in the tournament since Astle in Mexico in 1970.

With little to play for apart from pride,

Football

Hodgson took the unusual step of naming his entire starting line-up for the game, with Gary Cahill and Daniel Sturridge the only survivors from last week's 2-1 defeat to Uruguay.

Foster, Phil Jones, Chris Smalling, Luke Shaw, James Milner, Frank Lampard, Jack Wilshere, Ross Barkley and Adam Lallana replaced Hart, Glen Johnson, Leighton Baines, Phil Jagielka, Steven Gerrard, Jordan Henderson, Wayne Rooney – who has only scored once in the tournament, Danny

Welbeck and Raheem Sterling, while Lampard took over as captain. Albion goalkeeper coach Dean Kiely welcomed Foster's selection and insisted he wouldn't let anyone down.

"He thoroughly deserves it – he made a really big contribution to our season and was a really big player for us," said Kiely.

"He will be fine. I see him every day in training and he's a player of vast Premier League experience and one who doesn't let anything faze him, so he'll take it in his stride."

Meanwhile, Foster will be on his trav-

els again when he returns to his club after Albion announced a pre-season trip to the United States which includes a couple of friendlies.

New head coach Alan Irvine will take his Baggies squad on an 11-day training trip to Sacramento, California, which will start from Thursday, July 17 to Sunday, July 27.

The club has also arranged two friendlies as part of the trip, both against new USL professional side Sacramento Republic on Monday, July 21 and Friday, July 25 (both 7.30pm kick-offs West Coast USA time).

I decide
transfers
– Irvine

ALBION'S new boss Alan Irvine insisted he will decide which players sign for Albion.

The Scot is trawling through lists of possible transfer targets drawn up by scouts and narrowed down by new technical director Terry Burton.

But despite the presence of Burton and former sporting and technical director Richard Garlick at the training ground, Irvine insists he will have the final say.

Albion have already snapped up eye-catching free transfers Craig Gardner and former Wolves centre-half Joleon Lescott.

"There wouldn't be a situation where a player came in that I didn't want," said Irvine.

"Clearly there will be players who are out of our reach financially or in terms of contracts or where they want to play.

"But in terms of the players who are in our reach, it wouldn't make sense for them to come in without me rubber-stamping it."

Albion used just one of their two domestic loans last season to sign Scott Sinclair, who endured a nightmare stay.

CAT putting its
mark on shirts

CAT Communications will be sponsoring the Walsall shirts for the Club Legends Cup at the LG Arena on Saturday July 12.

The indoor football tournament will feature former legends from Midlands football teaming up with lucky fans and locking horns at the prestigious venue. All money raised from the event

BRADSHAW JUST A
START FOR SMITH

DEAN SMITH is continuing his hunt for more firepower after signing Tom Bradshaw – with Walsall braced for another possible Will Grigg cash boost.

On Monday, Bradshaw became the first new face on the Saddlers forward line this summer when he penned a two-year deal at the Banks's Stadium.

The 21-year-old, a former Wales Under-21 international, rejected an offer to stay at Shrewsbury and the deal went through after the clubs agreed a compensation package.

It is the second time in a fortnight the Saddlers have paid a 'fee' for a player, after prising promising goalkeeper Craig MacGillivray from non-league Harrogate Town.

Coffers

And Smith could yet see his coffers boosted further following reports Grigg, who departed the Saddlers 12 months ago for Brentford, could be on the move to Bristol City.

Under the terms of the tribunal following last summer's switch, the Saddlers have a 20 per cent sell-on clause for any transfer from the Bees.

Brentford are reported to want £300,000 for the Northern Ireland international.

That money would further help Smith as he looks to further rebuild the forward line which misfired last season following the

Football

loss of Grigg and Jamie Paterson. The Saddlers boss has stated he ideally wants around three new attackers this summer, with Bradshaw being the first to arrive.

"I'm looking to maybe get three in there," said Smith. "Three who can play up there. Last season the players we had up there were quite good at rotating among themselves and we will be looking to do that again."

Bradshaw netted seven times in 30 appearances for Shrewsbury last season but missed three months of the campaign, in which the Shropshire side were eventually relegated, with a knee injury.

Smith saw him in action against the Saddlers three times last season, twice for the Shrews first team and then finally in for the reserves in April as he was recovering from injury.

"He's a player that has always caught my eye whenever he has played against us at various levels," said Smith. "I believe that we can further develop him here and really bring the best out of him."

Ian bowls over the opposition in memorial final



Brett Stevenson of Jenningsbet, with winner Ian Whitehouse and runner-up Derek Storer

A BOWLS player from a Willenhall club has come out on top of an over-60s tournament.

Ian Whitehouse, for Willenhall Nordley, was the overall winner and collected the £650 Frank Turner Memorial Over 60s bowls title at Chads-moor Progressive.

In the final Ian faced Derek Storer, for Windmill, and after trailing 8-10 during the match he put together a decisive break of eight shots to eventually take a 16-10 advantage.

He held on to the lead for a 21-16 victory to claim the £200 winner's cheque.

In the semi-final Derek Storer ended Noel Burrows', for Stockport, hopes of lifting the title for a third consecutive year 21-18. In the other Semi Ian Whitehouse edged out Peter Hayne, for Halesowen, 21-19.

Prizes were presented by Brett Stevenson representing sponsors Jenningsbet.

Quarter Finals: P.Hayne (Halesowen) 21 T.Weldon (Rugeley) 20; I.Whitehouse (Willenhall Nordley) 21 G.Merry (Tarporey) 17; D.Storer (Windmill) 21 C.Lamb (Bedworth) 12; N.Burrows (Stockport) 21 J.Clarke (Wrockwaine Wood) 17

Semi Finals: I.Whitehouse 21 P.Hayne 19; D.Storer 21 N.Burrows 18

Final: I.Whitehouse 21 D.Storer 16

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